

BFM

BOAT FISHING MONTHLY

The UK's Only Dedicated Boat Fishing Magazine



INSHORE HOUNDS

How to target them on light tackle

BASS DEBATE

3 BASS BAG LIMIT IS NOW LAW

Find out how this new ruling affects you

GET THE POINT

EXPERT ADVICE ON HOOK CHOICE

Kev Sampson reveals his match-winning hook preferences



MARUKYU CRABS

How to use this summer's 'must have' artificial bait/lure

Issue 165 May 2015
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Welcome...

... to the **May 2015** issue of Boat Fishing Monthly.

Well folks, if you haven't heard already, there has been a new law passed that limits Recreational Sea Anglers to three bass per person per day. This new ruling came into effect at midnight on March 29th, and if you turn to page 20 you'll discover exactly why this limit has been implemented and how further stock preservation measures are going to be forced upon commercial fishermen in order to help protect our bass.

Those of you who follow me on Facebook will know that I have been quite vocal about this subject in recent weeks. I'm not going to go into detail here, but let's just say that I am very concerned as to what will happen next within our wonderful world of sea fishing. There's already talk of possible limits for plaice, rays and other species – but I can't confirm whether that is just scaremongering or in fact a real possibility.

The really worrying thing as far as I'm concerned is that there is a figure being bounded around, which is being taken as a true figure by the Europrats who are making the new laws. This figure is that there are over 800,000 sea anglers in the UK. In my 21-years experience in the field of sea fishing magazine publishing, I've got to know and work very closely with members of the fishing tackle trade, and let me tell you – their figures don't lie. In my opinion there are nowhere near the number of sea anglers in the UK being quoted. In fact I would hazard a guess that there aren't even half that

number in the UK – there are barely one million coarse anglers!

I don't quite know which direction things are going to move from now. There are a lot of very angry charter skippers out there, as well as more angry commercial fishermen.

Part of me is glad that measures are being introduced to protect bass, but there's a large part of me that is angry about the way it has been forced upon us because of 'dodgy' figures. I don't know about you, but I had one of the best years bass fishing ever last season. And, if you check out the BFM Facebook Page, you'll see that in the fast couple of weeks there has been more double-figure bass caught than there was throughout most of last season! I don't believe that our bass stocks are about to crash – not one little bit.

Okay, I think I should stop typing now before I end up penning 4,000 words on the subject. I may well put something together for the next issue – so keep your eyes peeled!

Bass blunders aside, the fishing has really kicked off now, with loads of big plaice, smoothhounds, turbot, black bream and all manner of species being caught – which is really great news.

That just leaves me to wish you all some fantastic fishing, and remember – you can only keep three bass per trip!

Dave

CHECK OUT THE NEW LOOK BFM WEBSITE!

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!



If you want up to the minute catch reports, the latest sea fishing videos and all the hottest gossip, log onto our Facebook page.

We constantly update it, and we often post live catch reports from the many features that we're out and about doing. It really is the most up to date form of boat fishing news available on the web (and we have a pretty good laugh on there too!)

VIDEO MAD

We now have 126 videos on our YouTube channel (boatfishingmonthly.com), in categories covering everything from gear reviews to baiting up and knot sequences, plus the all-important fish-catching action. We've also got more videos on our website.



BFM DVDS

Make sure you check out the first series of our popular boat fishing series – now available on DVD. Visit our website for more details on how to secure your copies now.



twitter.com/boatfishingmag



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The June 2015 issue of BFM is rammed with summer action. We'll be taking a look at how to target plaice on soft plastic lures, as well as baits. There's another great boat review in the form of the Levant 560, and we'll be revealing how you could get yourself among ton-up fish, as well as loads of big bass and bream, within just a 2-hour flight!

DON'T MISS IT.
It's on sale Thursday 17th April.



P20: With a 3 bag catch limit in force, the Angling Trust explains how it affects us all.



P36: Fancy a fish-filled family holiday? Des Westmore reveals a fantastic destination in Mexico.



P48: Check out these new artificial crabs from Marukyu. Dave Barham explains how to rig them.

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TURN TO PAGE 30
FOR MORE DETAILS



'ONE RIDE TO PARADISE' WINS GLOBAL SUZUKI PHOTO COMPETITION

Following a hugely successful, global search for the ultimate photo to illustrate the 'Suzuki Marine Way of Life', Suzuki Motor Corporation has announced the winning photo, 'One ride to paradise', which comes from New Caledonia.

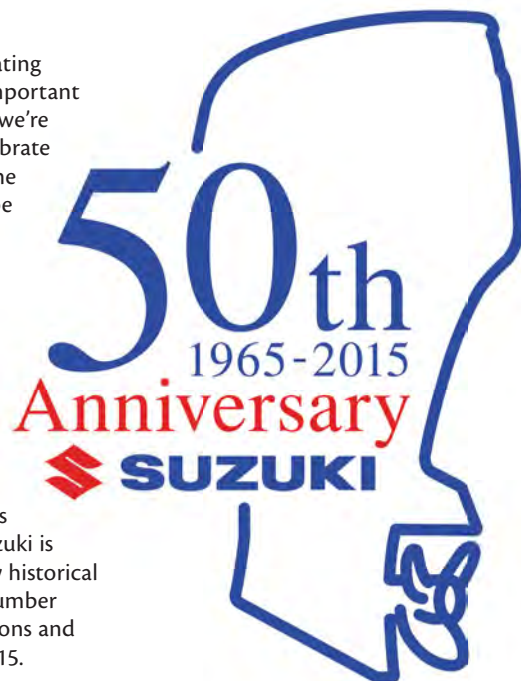
1965 saw the Company's first outboard motor, the D55, hit the water and since then, Suzuki has been at the very forefront of outboard technology – all the while designing the ultimate range of outboards. To celebrate this milestone, Suzuki asked boaters to submit their interesting photos, which show them experiencing Suzuki-powered adventures on the water. The winning shot, 'One ride to paradise' – which will feature in the Company's promotional material throughout 2015 – does just that.

As well as commending the overall winning photo – which was chosen from entries spanning 21 countries – Suzuki also presented three 'Awards for Excellence' to the runners up who captured their own enjoyable boating experiences. 'Suzuki Sunset' from Sweden, 'Doing it the Mozambican way' from South Africa, and 'Feel so nice with Suzuki outboard' of Japan will all receive a pair of Edo Kiriko, Japanese traditional faceted glasses, and a jigsaw puzzle made from their photos.

"The competition, which ran from June 2014 until November 2014, proved very popular and we're pleased so many boaters

wanted to share their boating experiences. 2015 is an important year for all at Suzuki and we're pleased to be able to celebrate with boaters all around the world and, of course, to be able to award our winner by using their photo in our promotional material throughout 2015," says Masahiro Yamamoto, General Manager, Suzuki Marine European Liaison Office.

And the celebrations don't end there. In this, its 50th anniversary year, Suzuki is issuing a 50th anniversary historical book and is planning a number of local events, competitions and giveaways throughout 2015.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BASS

The Angling Trades Association (ATA) fully supports the recent EU proposal to raise the minimum legal size (MLS) for bass. However, the Association insists that the limit must apply to all those fishing for them, without showing any bias to a particular sector.

Rumours have suggested that the new proposed MLS of 42cm would only apply to recreational catches, whereas commercial fishermen would continue to be able to harvest immature bass at 36cm, effectively discriminating against recreational anglers and undermining the scientific rationale for the change.

In addition, the EU is proposing a monthly limit on how many bass commercial vessels are allowed to catch. But the proposal of one tonne per vessel means that up to 90 per cent of the under-10m fleet in England will not be affected at all, according to the 2010 database figures. This makes it imperative that the small-scale commercial sector shoulders its fair share of responsibility for helping to reduce bass mortality through the adoption of a higher MLS.

Recreational catches are already likely to be subjected to a daily bag limit of three fish a day. The ATA is supporting the Angling Trust's insistence that a higher MLS applied to all fisheries, as well as technical changes to reduce discards of bass, will help move closer to the required 80 per cent overall catch reduction strongly advised by scientists.

Naidre Werner, Chair of the Angling Trades Association commented: 'Penalising recreational sea anglers and the economic benefits they generate is unfair and cannot be tolerated. I fail to understand why the EU is not listening to the facts being presented to them. Sea Angling 2012 (a research study commissioned and funded by Defra) clearly showed the huge value of the recreational sea fishing market specifically in bass fishing. It highlighted that recreational anglers who

fish for bass practice catch and release in most instances (75% from the shore and 50% from a boat) and that the current catch and take home levels are negligible compared to commercial catches. So why are recreational sea anglers apparently to be restricted selectively?'

Naidre continued: 'Furthermore, implementing restrictions like these limits on recreational anglers will jeopardise jobs in the wholesale and retail tackle industry in the UK. This could result in a loss of up to 15% of jobs, and more could follow as the trade weakens on the back of poorer fish stocks. The UK leads the world in tackle design and development, and it is bizarre that the EU would adopt a policy that puts both people out of work and discourages development. This situation would be very short-sighted and incredibly stupid.'

Dr Bruno Broughton, ATA Chief Executive and an experienced fisheries scientist, commented: 'Allowing a minimum size limit of 42cm for all caught bass lets 50% of the stock spawn once. At 48cm all bass will spawn once and many twice. The current size limit of 36cm for commercial fishermen allows no spawning at all... ever! If this is allowed to continue, there won't be an argument as there won't be any bass for anyone to catch.'

The ATA is urging all sea anglers, businesses involved in sea angling and sympathetic individuals to support the Angling Trust's campaign by emailing the EU Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, with a short message of support. The email address is karmenu.vella@ec.europa.eu.

Bruno added: 'It won't take long to write a message, but it could save your hobby, your job or your business!'



THE NEW OCEAN SIGNAL RESCUEME EDF1

Ocean Signal has developed the world's most compact electronic distress flare – the new rescueME EDF1.

The lightweight and rugged rescueME EDF1 is 40% smaller than similar devices and ideal for a grab bag or life raft, offering a safe and long-lasting solution to visual signalling in an emergency.

Developed as a practical and cost effective alternative to the single use pyrotechnic flare, the unit can be used repeatedly in any of its four modes, ensuring continued visibility is maintained over a longer period. The rescueME EDF1 is safe to store and operate, with no concerns associated with disposal.

Serious Light Output

The light output is a beam of over 30° throughout the full 360° azimuth, providing in excess of six times more light coverage than other electronic flares. Light is also distributed throughout the hemisphere above the unit to ensure visibility from the air.

The unique lens design combined with the use of advanced LEDs and highly efficient circuit

technology ensures a constant level of light output throughout the life of the user replaceable battery.

The rescueME EDF1 has four different modes of operation – Economy, High, Ultra and Forward Beam - plus SOS signalling.

Suitable for one-handed operation in difficult conditions and waterproof to 10 metres, the rescueME EDF1 has a visibility range of up to seven miles and up to six hours' operation.

The rescueME EDF1 measures 187mm (length) by 42mm (width), and weighs just 155g (5.5oz).

A Sensible Alternative To Pyrotechnics

Ocean Signal Managing Director Alan Wrigley said: "The rescueME EDF1 is a real alternative to the pyrotechnic flare, offering distinct advantages in operational life, safety of use and disposal, as well as cost and size.

"As with all our rescueME products, the Ocean Signal designers have developed the flare to incorporate a significant size reduction when compared to traditional flares and other electronic flares, representing a

real breakthrough in the industry. In terms of hours of operation, a traditional flare will normally burn for around 30 seconds before extinguishing, while our flare burns for six hours. The user also has the added reassurance that the rescueME EDF1 is safe to use and discard when necessary, without the dangers associated with pyrotechnics."

Safety and communication products from Ocean Signal offer exceptional value, meeting or exceeding international technical and safety standards. Careful design and innovation provides commercial shipping, offshore industries, fishing and recreational users the confidence that their Ocean Signal equipment will work to, and beyond, their expectations when it is needed most.

INFO

Suitable for use both at sea and on land, the Ocean Signal rescueME EDF1 is available from April 2015 at a price of £89 +VAT.

For more information on Ocean Signal products, please visit the website at www.oceansignal.com



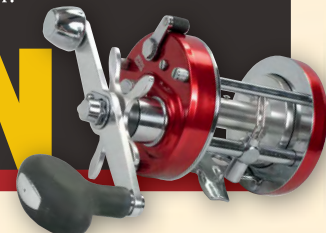
What's Been Caught

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WIN



**14lb
Ray**



Yamamoto Ray!

This 14lb thornback ray was caught off Weymouth by Yiochi Yamamoto while fishing from Jeff Clarke's boat 'Duchess 2'.

**11lb
Bass**



Another Double For TONY

'Big Tony' caught this cracking 11lb 14oz bass off Littlehampton, just a couple of days after boating his PB 12lb 2oz beast. He was fishing on board Martin Donald's private boat 'Blueprint'.

**15lb
Pollack**



Proper Pollack

Tim Andrews from Southsea Marina Angling Club caught this cracking 15lb 8oz pollack recently.



Big Wreck Ling

Richard Phillips, age 70, landed his PB ling weighing 25lb 8oz while drifting a wreck aboard 'Flamer IV' out of Weymouth. The successful bait was two whole calamari squid and mackerel fillet presented on a pennell rig of Sakuma 6/0 Stinger hooks.



Ray's Plaice

Ray Barker caught this 3lb plaice during a successful day's fishing out of Weymouth on board Jeff Clarke's boat 'Duchess 2'.



Mega Ling!

John Choat caught this huge 34lb ling during a wrecking trip out of Weymouth on board Josh Simmonds' charter boat 'Fish On 2'.

What's Been Caught

Sponsored by


**5lb
Plaice**

Plenty of Plaice

Nigel Allen and his mate Chris Rogers had a blinding day on the plaice recently out of Poole. Here's Nigel with a 5lb 2oz cracker. The pair caught 59 plaice, with 46 returned.


Spurdog

Super Spur

Dalton caught this 'late teens' spurdog recently during a trip out of Poole. He was fishing on board Sam Cumming's charter boat 'Silver Spray II'. The spur wasn't weighed, but returned quickly to the water.


**5lb
Cod**

First Cod

Paul Aldridge was fishing from his boat 'Mollie' in Southampton water when he caught his first ever cod. It weighed 5lb and took a squid bait.


**10lb
Bass**

Mick's A Bass Magnet

Mick Mahoney caught a 10lb 4oz bass fishing a 40g Kaki Fiiish Minnow lure on 12lb line aboard 'Spirit of Arun' out of Littlehampton.


**11lb
Bass**

A New PB

Mick Mahoney caught this new PB bass weighing 11lb 2oz. She was using a 40g Kaki Fiiish Minnow lure on 12lb line aboard 'Spirit of Arun' out of Littlehampton. Way to go Mick!

**28lb
Blonde
ray**



Big Blonde

James caught this monster 28lb blonde ray while fishing on board Sam Cumming's Poole-based charter boat 'Silver Spray II'.

Pollack



Fat Pollack

Justin Keates caught this fat spring pollack during a trip on board Sam Cumming's Poole-based charter boat 'Silver Spray II'.

**5lb
Plaice**



Big Spotty

Ooosh! Check out this 5lb+ plaice caught by John Davies. He was fishing out of Poole on board Sam Cumming's boat 'Silver Spray II'. The plaice was caught locally too - not up the other end!

**12lb
Bass**



Tony's Bass PB

'Big Tony' caught this cracking PB 12lb 2oz bass on a whiting livebait off Littlehampton. He was fishing on board Martin Donald's private boat 'Blueprint'.

**19lb
Spurdog**



Thames Spurs

Ed Avery caught this 19lb spurdog along with nine others in the Thames Estuary off Walton on Naze from his father's boat 'Artful Dodger'. All the spurs were returned to the water alive.



Andy's Inshore Advice

This month our resident inshore dinghy fishing expert, Andy Pilott, explains how to catch smoothhounds in shallow water.

LIGHT TACKLE INSHORE HOUNDS



I was down my local harbour at Yarmouth checking my boat last summer, when I saw Weymouth charter boat 'Fish On 2', skippered by Josh Simmonds, moored up on one of the pontoons. I have known Josh for a few years now, after meeting him in various places like Alderney and Weymouth, where we have had a chat over a cider or two. Josh was over on one of his four-day Isle of Wight trips that he does a couple of times a year, with two nights ashore in a local B&B run by some friends of ours.

Josh targets different species each day like bass, pollack, bream, flatfish and more, but he informed me that tomorrow was a Solent smoothhound hunt. For us locals we sometimes take the

smoothhound fishing in the shelter of Solent for granted, as there are so many that thrive in this perfect environment. Being sheltered by the Isle of Wight you can always fish somewhere if it's too rough to fish the famous Needles grounds. The reason for the Solent being so good for hounds is the abundance of food that thrives in the estuarine environment, like hermit crabs, shore crabs and ragworm. It has to rate as one of the best places in the country for catching these hard fighting fish.

Game On, On Fish On!

Anyway, back to the conversation with Josh down on the pontoons. He was going out in the morning with his crew for a day catching smoothies, as the lads don't catch many down Weymouth, and ☺

'Fish On'; Raymond Crowe with another angry hound attached.



Raymond Crowe bent into a nice smutt on his spinning rod.

fancied a crack with some light gear. Previous to coming over from Weymouth he had been collecting hardback crabs in the harbour. He also had a livewell full of nice big hermit crabs that he had got off a local whelk potting boat. When I said a livewell full there were hundreds of prime hermits in there - cracking smoothie bait for the Solent gravel banks!

As the conversation went on I was invited out the next day to take some pictures and help Josh with a few pointers of were to fish, as I had been doing quite a bit of fishing for them lately. I went home happy at the thought of being out as cameraman/crew on 'Fish On 2' for the day!

Perfect Conditions

The morning was perfectly dead calm as I hurriedly packed my kit for the day ahead, then went to my tackle shop to grab some extra unwashed squid with a few packs of frozen peelers for the boat. Freshwater Bay looked so calm and flat as I went by on my way down to Yarmouth to meet the crew. On the boat the anglers were already there, sounding excited at the prospect of a day's hounding, and being able to hopefully get the light gear out and have a bash.

Raymond Crowe, one of Josh's regular anglers, had already been out at first light with his spinning rod catching three nice bass for

the barbeque they all had planned for later on when they got back to the digs.

A Bit Of Groundbait

As discussed earlier with the bait, Josh had loads of hermits and hardbacks, also we had Calamari, unwashed squid and frozen peelers. We decided to use the hardbacks, about 5lb of the squid and some old ragworm to make some groundbait. The squid was chopped up into small rings, while the crabs were dispatched then chopped up. We mixed this up in a bucket, ending up with a wicked groundbait mix.

This mix was periodically dropped over the side with a modified bait dropper I had brought along. We

dropped the mix over about every twenty minutes, a couple of drops a time. It is also good to drop more at slack, just before the tide gets going, to help draw the fish to you with the first trickle of tide. Most people were using a mix of hermits and squid, which caught well, but all the baits did to be honest - even unwashed squid with no crab at all.

Josh had a neat trick I had never seen before to get the hermit crabs out of their shells. All he did is turn the live well pump off, and after a while the hermit crabs staring crawling out of their shells looking for oxygen - wicked tip!

The Plan

We slipped the mooring and headed out of the packed harbour, soon steaming to our first mark of the day. The tides were perfect, a nice small neap with a low tide around 3pm, so a plan was hatched round this - as you do. The plan was to fish inshore and let the lads find their feet until the tide started to slacken, when we would move out deeper to try for a monster smutt or two. A name was soon born for this mark...

The Nursery Slopes

As it was a gully with shingle banks, Josh anchored the boat uptide of the banks so we would be fishing back into them. We got

Johnny Jackson getting to grips with his first time smutting with my Yuki Manacor multitip and baitrunner.



Is it going to stay in?



I think we've got enough bait for the day!





Brian Taylor with a nice starry hound.



There were plenty of good bream about.



The happy crew – ready for a barbecue!

there just as the tide was starting to trickle off with the first run of the ebb - perfect.

Crewman Jeff deployed a few loads of the groundbait over the side to get the scent trail going, and bites came from the off with bream being the main culprits, stripping the tasty baits in a frenzy. They weren't bad sized fish either, some must have been a few pounds in weight giving a spirited fight on the light gear.

There was some bait robbing basslets scoffing the crab baits too, as the skipper found out! Then the hounds turned up en masse. We had nothing massive, the

biggest must have been around 8lb maybe a bit bigger as nothing was weighed, but thankfully not many pesky dogfish as I recall - don't think they got a chance to get to the bait before a hungry bream or hound scoffed it!

The bream bites died as the ebb got away to full speed, which accounted for the bigger smutts on this mark. Jeff kept a steady flow of groundbait going over the side at regular intervals, but the tide was starting to die on its backside now, and so were the hound bites with the pesky bream coming back on the feed. It was time to move out ready for a crack at the big guns!

The trip had already been a success, with good fish numbers to keep everyone interested on this baking hot stunning day! Everyone was having a good time with the usual 'Fish On' madcap banter from the skipper, coupled with Jeff's dry wit!

The Deepwater Banks

We upped anchor then steamed a short distance out into the main tide run to fish some much larger bream, right in the middle of the Solent. This area is only fishable on neap tides for an hour or two at the bottom or the top of the tide.

We had the last of the ebb, and the first of the flood until the tide was too strong, then we'd go back to Yarmouth as planned.

The area is a series of gravel banks, and Josh positioned the boat so that it swung round for the start of the flood, so there was no need to re-anchor. The tide was a tad strong to start with as Jeff started dropping a few loads of groundbait down while the anglers hastily re-baited, hopefully for some bigger smutts. Not to be disappointed it was kicking off straightaway again, but with bigger fish coming aboard. It was fairly

Hermit and peeler combo oozing with scent and juices.



We had plenty of hermits in the livewell.



Jeff loading the dropper.



Over goes the bait dropper – what a neat little trick!





Andy Murphy with one of the better bream.



Mickey G with a nice one from the inshore spot.

hectic sport until the tide went dead slack, which never really lasts long - even on a small tide here.

Jeff dropped the last loads of groundbait over the side as the

flood started to trickle in. Bites became fast and furious again, with some cracking smutts being boated over the 10lb mark. Raymond Crowe had the best

fish of the day that put up a spectacular fight on his light gear. It was never weighed, but it had to be in the upper teens. We just took some quick shots then put

her back to fight another day.

The tide was starting to build now, and it was becoming too strong to fish sensibly, so the decision was made to go back to Yarmouth after a great day's fishing with a good crew for an early finish. The boat was moored up and I went home after a good crack with the lads. Josh had invited me to a their barbeque at the B&B in Freshwater Bay where I live, so I went out in my dingy at the bay and caught two nice lobsters in my pots, which I took along with some ciders!

Lobsters, burgers and bass - can't be bad after a good day's fishing! Cheers Josh and crew, I'm looking forward to another trip out this year when you come down to Yarmouth.



Mark One was chosen as it was out of the tide fishing onto some banks, as shown in the picture. It shows a reasonable depth of water, with a nice set of features to fish into behind the boat.



Mark Two is right in the fiercest tide out in the middle of the Solent, which is a series of large shingle banks. Josh put the boat in the middle of two banks so as the tide changed from ebb to flood we turned round onto another feature, without having to move.

INFO

If you fancy a day out with Josh on 'Fish On 2', give him a call on: 07554 434338 or e-mail: fish.on.weymouth@googlemail.com



Raymond Crowe's beast, well into the upper teens.

HISTORY OF THE EDDYSTONE EEL
No Lure Beats An Eddystone Eel "The Proof Is In The Records"

David Beer The originator of the **Eddystone Eel** in **April 1973** has seen his lure have an unbeatable track record over the past **42 years world wide for both specimen and record breaking fish**. It has become both the professional and commercial fisherman's choice. It's known as the Bass Lure world wide.

Martin Beer has been working on sales with the handling most of the office work and exports since 1989.

Dave was the **United Kingdom 1976 Westward Television Champion Angler** winning fishing competitions against over **3500 shore anglers** and then winning the finals in Sweden with **ABU** featuring boat, shore, river and lake fishing in which he won all categories!

Eddystone Eels have been responsible for catching **Ten World Records since 1973** including the **UK Bass, Coalfish, Pollack, Cod, and Whiting records**. Many commercial fishermen have caught record breaking Bass on Eddystone Eels, it's the commercial fisherman's favourite Bass lure.

In 1980 the Black No3 Eddystone Eels 190mm were responsible for catching many **Black Fin and Yellow Fin Tuna** off the coasts of USA and soon became known as "**The Hot Tuna Lure**", and still today Eddystone Eels are regarded by many boat skippers and fishermen as one of the main "banker" tuna lures. To add to that success it was the Eddystone Eel lure that was responsible for a **shore caught Record American Stripped Bass of 62lb during beach night fishing at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, USA**. The lure used was size No 5 Eddystone Eel 115mm and colour black, proving that these lures work at night too - such is the vibration created by the amazing tail pattern. Dave was fishing alongside that angler on that night which was a truly memorable occasion.

Many other species of fish have fallen to the **Eddystone Eel all around the world from boat to shore** both in fresh and salt water, which goes to show the **beauty of the Eddystone Lures is their versatility**. They will catch fish pretty much anywhere you put them.

Dave has designed all EDDYSTONE products moulds and tooling since 1973. Many big companies have copied his Eddystone styles and ideas, they follow with similar products "it's a compliment" **DAVID** has also designed and invented many innovative products for many international Tackle companies. Most of the **Eddystone Eel products were the Original and many of the Lures on the market today were evolved from Eddystone Designs**.

Eddystone Eel Ltd has over the years purchased the trading names, machinery, sole manufacturing rights, ownership and copyrights of a very old British Company. This was **Tatler Reels** which was purchased in 1989 from Grice and Young. **Tatler Reels had Five British and Two World Records**, plus thousands of near record breakers were all taken on Tatler multiplier reels between 1953 - 1989. A former **British Record Mako Shark of 476 lb**, a **Porbeagle Shark of 540 lb**, a **Halibut of 234 lb**, a **Conger of 102 lb** and a **World record Skate** were all taken on original Tatler multiplier reels.

In 2011 Eddystone Eel Ltd sold the name **TATLER** to a major Chinese company, The Tatler Reels are now for 2015 available with a new generation of superb **TATLER Reels** Rods and terminal tackle after being re-tooled in its Chinese factory at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds are now available to chosen Distributors world wide

David Beer has been involved with much of the designing of the new reels as the new Chinese owner wanted to keep David on in this roll as consultant designer

Eddystone Eel Ltd remain the exclusive Distributor for the **Tatler Brand** in the UK

A **PARTNER IN "TATLER REELS UK"** would be considered with capital and marketing for the UK market is a possibility **OTHER COUNTRIES COULD BE LOOKED AT** with the right offer

As for Eddystone Eel Ltd which has cost hundreds of thousands of pounds in the tooling and the development of Eddystone Eel since 1973 and as David is now 66 years old he would like to take a step back and would like someday to see a major international company take over the running of the company and take Eddystone Eel to the next level

David Designing Products and with his son Martin Beer Sales continue to push Eddystone Eel forward into 2015 with superb new ground breaking lures

EDDYSTONE EEL are a small company but **ARE THE CHAMPIONS** when it comes to lures that catch BIG fish

Competition "what competition" there are none that come anywhere near to the Eddystone Eel
No Lure Beats An Eddystone Eel
"The Proof Is In The Records"

Since 1973

The Eddystone Eel®

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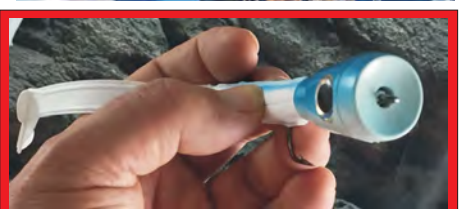
Ten World Line Class Records

Plus The British Record

Bass, Pollack, Coalfish, Cod and Whiting
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A Favourite With Those Professional And Pleasure Anglers Who Regularly Catch Big Fish.



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EDDYSTONE EEL 2014 LRF MINNOW



PENN Reels And Rods



PENN Defiance Level Wind Multipliers

The PENN Defiance was engineered to be an extremely versatile all-around reel comes in at an affordable price and packs enough punch to get just about any species back to the boat. It features a lightweight graphite frame and sideplates with stainless steel frame rings for improved rigidity to prevent "frame-flex".



Model	Capacity	Ratio	OUR Price
PENN Defiance Level Wind Multipliers			
20LW	395yds/15lb	4.3:1	£62.99
25LW	300yds/25lb	4.3:1	£69.99
40LW	340yds/20lb	3.6:1	£74.99

PENN Squall Level Wind Multipliers

15LW	220yds/20lb	4.9:1	£79.99
20LW	315yds/20lb	4.9:1	£80.99
20LW Left Hand	315yds/20lb	4.9:1	£80.99
30LW	370yds/30lb	4.9:1	£89.99
30LW Left Hand	370yds/30lb	4.9:1	£89.99

PENN Squall Lever Drag Boat Multipliers

30LD	260yds/30lb	6.1:1	£119.99
40LD	300yds/40lb	5.1:1	£124.99
50LD	310yds/50lb	4.3:1	£134.99
40LD Left Hand	300yds/40lb	5.1:1	£136.99
16VSLD 2 speed	600yds/30	4.5:1	£194.99

PENN Squall Level Wind Multipliers

The Squall Star Drag is designed from a lightweight graphite frame and is outfitted with a free-floating spool due to the Live Spindle design for exceptional casting performance. The externally adjustable Adjusta-Mag braking system utilized on the 12 and 15 sizes create one of the most castable reels in its class.

PENN Rods

Penn Boat Rods	Sect.	Our Price
Rampage Boat 7ft 8in 12-20lb	4	£62.99
Rampage Boat 7ft 6in 20-30lb	4	£62.99
Rampage Boat 7ft 4in 30-50lb	4	£62.99
Rampage Braid Boat 8ft 2in 12-20lb	2	£74.99
Rampage Braid Boat 8ft 2in 20-30lb	2	£74.99
Regiment Travel Boat 7ft 20lb class	5	£99.99
Regiment Travel Boat 7ft 30lb class	5	£99.99
Regiment Travel Boat 7ft 50lb class	5	£99.99

FREE CARRIAGE ON ALL ORDERS OVER £12



Tsunami

Tsunami Sabiki Rigs

46197 Red Head - Red Hk Sz 3 (UK #20)	£1.30
46198 Red Head - Red Hk Sz 4 (UK #18)	£1.30
46199 Red Head - Red Hk Sz 5 (UK #16)	£1.30
46200 Hage Green Head - Gold Hk Sz 8 (UK #12)	£1.30
46203 Hage Red Head - Gold Hk Sz 8 (UK #12)	£1.30
46204 Hage Red Head - Gold Hk Sz 6 (UK #14)	£1.30
46206 Hage Green Head Red Hk Sz 8 (UK #12)	£1.30
46207 Hage Green Head Red Hk Sz 6 (UK #14)	£1.30
46210 Iridescent Glo Head Red Hk sz 8 (UK #12)	£2.00
46211 Iridescent Glo Head Red Hk sz 10 (UK #10)	£2.00
46212 Iridescent Glo Head Red Hk sz 12 (UK #8)	£2.00
46213 Iridescent Glo Head Red Hk sz 14 (UK #6)	£2.00
46214 Iridescent Glo Head Red Hk sz 16 (UK #4)	£2.00

Tsunami 3 hook 7/0 Muppet Rigs

£1.20 each or 5 for £5

Available in Red Sparkle, Black Sparkle, Orange Sparkle and Luminous.



Tsunami



**Packs of 2 or 6
12.5cm or 25cm**

Tsunami Rig Making

Product	Pack Qty	Sizes (mm)	Each Pack	3 packs
Plastic Sea Boom	3	15cm	£1.50	£3.75
Plastic Sea Boom	3	20mm	£1.50	£3.75
Plastic Sea Boom	3	25mm	£1.99	£4.75
Plastic Sea Boom	2	33mm	£1.99	£4.75
Black Plastic Sea Boom	2	12.5mm	£1.50	£3.50
Black Plastic Sea Boom	2	25cm	£1.50	£3.50
Wire Boom with swivel	2	10cm	£1	£2.25
Wire Boom with swivel	2	20cm	£1	£2.25
Drift Leger Boom	2	35cm	£1.99	£4.75
Twin Spreader boom	1	44cm	£1	£2.50

JARVIS WALKER KNIFE SHARPENER WITH SUCTION GRIP

Jarvis Walker knife sharpening tools make it easy for you to keep a razor-sharp edge on your fishing knives. There's a variety of styles to choose from to match your preferred sharpening method and all the sharpening devices are the best value you'll find in Australia! **£6.99**



Rovex Tideline Boat Multipliers Loaded with Braid

Our Tideline Multipliers offer excellent features and value for money for saltwater anglers targeting a variety of species. Tideline reels feature a level-wind system and are available in two sizes for light boat and heavy wreck-style fishing. Each reel comes pre-loaded with 150yd of either 30lb or 40lb braid.

Rovex Tideline Boat Rods

Our new Tideline Boat Rods are designed to offer fantastic value for money for boating anglers. The Tideline build starts with high quality blanks and components to ensure these rods look and perform well above what's expected at this price point. Features include ultra-slim two-piece blanks, quality shaped EVA handles, screw down reel seats and braid-friendly guides. This three-rod range covers every situation from light inshore fishing for bass and pollack, to heavy wrecking for cod

Rovex Tideline Boat Multipliers Loaded with Braid

Model	Loaded	Ratio	OUR Price
TL20 Boat Multiplier	150m of 30lb braid	5.1:1	£44.99
TL30 Boat Multiplier	150m of 40lb braid	4.1:1	£44.99

Rovex Tideline Boat Rods

Model	Class	OUR Price
7ft 6in 2pce	8-12lb	£33.99
7ft 6in 2pce	12-20lb	£33.99
7ft 6in 2pce	20-30lb	£33.99

Rovex Tideline Rod And Reel Combos

Rod	Reel	Combo Price
7ft 6in / 8-12lb	TL20	£73.99
7ft 6in / 12-20lb	TL20	£73.99
7ft 6in / 20-30lb	TL30	£73.99



Tsunami Tazer

Probably the best artificial Sea Bass lure ever developed but great too for attracting both freshwater and saltwater predators. The Tazer range features some great fish-catching colour options. Tazers feature unique red adipose fins and lifelike 3D eyes as well as holographic foil inserts on the translucent bodied variants. Cutthroat Tazers feature red holographic inserts to give the impression of a wounded and bleeding fish.

**14 different colours available in both sizes.
4in £3.99 for pack of 5
6in £3.99 for pack of 3**

Rovex

ROVEX BIG BOSS II SPINNING REELS

If you want the power to fight tough saltwater fish, it's time to call in the Rovex Big Boss II spin reels. There are five models in the range—a 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000—and the all new design is constructed with an aluminium body and side plate, a machined aluminium handle and an aluminium spool. The 5000 and 6000 sizes have an extra-heavy-duty polymer rotor and the 7000, 8000 and 9000 sizes have an aluminium rotor. Rovex Big Boss II reels are strong on the inside, too, with six stainless steel ball bearings, a stainless steel main shaft, rock-solid infinite anti-reverse and a powerful-yet-smooth carbon-fibre drag system.



ROVEX BIG BOSS II SPINNING REELS

Code	Model	Bearings	Line Capacity	Gear Ratio	OUR Price	OFFER Price
28795	Big Boss II 5000	6+1	20lb mono/150m	4.9:1	£56.99	2 for £102.99
28796	Big Boss II 6000	6+1	25lb mono/150m	4.9:1	£56.99	2 for £102.99
28797	Big Boss II 7000	6+1	25lb mono/250m	4.9:1	£59.99	2 for £108.00
28798	Big Boss II 8000	6+1	30lb mono/240m	4.9:1	£69.99	2 for £126.00
28799	Big Boss II 9000	6+1	30lb mono/350m	4.9:1	£69.99	2 for £126.00

Rovex 250yd spools of Tergo Braid

Rovex Tergo Braid is an affordable multi-purpose Dyneema blended braid suitable for various fishing styles. It's made using a special fibre-twisting process for better sensitivity and is also strong. Rovex Tergo braid is green.



Rovex Altus Boat Rods

Super-rugged, super-tough Rovex Altus one piece boat rods are the choice of skippers up and down the country seeking totally dependable rugged rods at a bargain price.



Rovex Altus Boat Rods

Model	Class	OUR Price
5ft 9in - 1pce	20-30lb	£23.99
5ft 9in - 1pce	30-50lb	£23.99
6ft - 1pce	20-25lb	£23.99

Rovex 250yd spools of Tergo Braid

LB	Diameter	Yds	OUR Price
10lb	0.12mm	250yds	£8.99
15lb	0.17mm	250yds	£8.99
20lb	0.21mm	250yds	£8.99
30lb	0.35mm	250yds	£8.99
50lb	0.45mm	250yds	£8.99

Mikes Tackle Shop, 46 Portobello High Street
Edinburgh, EH15 1DA
Tel: 0131 6573258
www.mikestackleshop.com

THE GREAT BASS DEBATE



On March 29th a new bag limit of three fish per-person-per-day for recreational catches of bass was made law by the European Commission. Here the Angling Trust explains all the facts about the recent 3 bass bag limit...

WHY HAS THE BAG LIMIT BEEN INTRODUCED?

In 2014 the International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES) – which produces independent international scientific advice on fishing – advised landings of bass to be reduced by approximately 80 per cent due to successive years of recruitment failure, increasing commercial landings and a serious decline on the spawning biomass of the stock, which, unless addressed, would lead to a collapse of the stock.

The EU's technical committee for fisheries was asked to look at the impact of different fisheries on bass fishing mortality – the bass killed as a result of fishing methods. This committee looked at surveys from various EU countries and concluded that recreational fisheries were responsible for approximately 25 per cent of all fishing mortality for bass across the EU, including the Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel, English Channel and North Sea. This was deemed to be significant enough to be included in any measures necessary to reduce total fishing mortality and increase the biomass towards the Common Fishery Policy objective of reaching Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).

ARE RECREATIONAL CATCHES REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR 25 PER CENT OF THE CATCH?

There is not enough robust scientific data to be able to prove or disprove this with any more accuracy. Recreational catches are an estimate taken from surveys of recreational anglers carried out in France, the UK and the Netherlands. However, we can say that official catch data from commercial landings are notoriously understated with a combination of illegal unreported landings and legal landings sold directly from boats that are not recorded. The issue of understated commercial landings is well documented in various scientifically published documents and 'true' commercial landings may be double or treble official landings. Consequently, the proportion of fishing mortality attributable to recreational fishing is significantly less than the alleged 25 per cent. Once more accurate data on both true commercial landings and recreational fisheries becomes available we will seek to ensure that the impact of recreational fishing is reviewed.

It is important to note that 40 years ago, before commercial bass fishing had developed, bass were mainly a recreational

species and recreational catches were responsible for most fishing mortality – but that this was perfectly sustainable. As commercial fishing for bass developed, the proportion of total fishing mortality attributable to recreational fishing has substantially declined. That recreational fisheries should play some part in any attempt at restoring bass stocks is not in question but recreational anglers should not be accused of having significantly contributed to overfishing when compared to the exponential increase in commercial bass fishing over the last four decades.

The problem is added to by those, intentionally and unintentionally, accusing recreational anglers of selling their catches when by definition recreational anglers do not sell their fish. These catches are being sold by unlicensed commercial rod and line fishermen.

HOW WILL THE BAG LIMIT BE ENFORCED?

The EU is relying on existing enforcement at national level by Member States. In England this means enforcement of the bag limit will be carried out by the Inshore Fishery and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) from the shore out to six nautical miles. Beyond six miles enforcement will be carried out by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

In the UK it is currently legal to sell fish caught from the shore or from unpowered vessels where no license is available. There are therefore potential enforcement issues around whether bass retained above the three-fish-per-day limit can be proven to have been caught commercially and are therefore legally retainable. We have raised this issue with Defra and await a response.



It's hoped that these new measures will eventually see a rise in the number of big bass.

WHO DOES THE BAG LIMIT APPLY TO?

Recreational fisheries are defined by this legislation as “non-commercial fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources such as for recreation, tourism or sport”.

The bag limit applies to all recreational catches, from shore and from boats, using rod and line, nets, spearguns or other fishing gears where the catch is retained for personal consumption and not sold.

DID THE ANGLING TRUST SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF A BAG LIMIT?

Not as a stand-alone measure and certainly not the one-fish-per-angler bag limit initially proposed by the EU. However, in the course of researching how other bass fisheries are successfully managed we looked at other parts of the world, such as in Ireland and in the United States. It was clear from these two examples that bag limits can play an important role, and be supported by recreational anglers, in these fisheries where bag limits are used in conjunction with restrictions on commercial fisheries.

We have always told government that bag limits would be unjust if they were not accompanied by measures to cut back significantly on fishing mortality from commercial fisheries where fishing effort has been allowed to increase unchecked and which are responsible for the vast majority of landings.

During the course of discussions with the EU Commission and the UK Government we argued that a higher minimum landing size (MLS) would be a better alternative measure to reduce fishing mortality from recreational catches because

- A) It would be fairer and more balanced because it would apply to all and
- B) Because compliance would be higher due to many anglers already adhering to legal size limits or their own limits which often exceed those set legally and C) It would protect immature fish and secure that more bass reach spawning size before being captured (no female bass spawn at the present MLS 36cm).

IS IT PERMANENT?

The bag limit has been introduced through an amendment to the 2015 TAC and quota regulations which set fishing opportunities for the year ahead. These are usually agreed by the Council of Ministers in December and expire on December 31st the following year. The bag limit will therefore have to be re-agreed and included in the TAC and quota regulations for 2016 unless another, perhaps more appropriate, piece of legislation can be found to maintain it.

DOES THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY (CFP) APPLY TO RECREATIONAL FISHING?

The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in 2013 was very careful to exclude reference to recreational fisheries apart from one reference where, “Recreational fisheries can have a significant impact on fish resources and Member States should, therefore, ensure that they are conducted in a manner that is compatible with the objectives of the CFP”.

The CFP also gives the Commission general powers to address any kind of negative impact on a stock, be it overfishing, pollution, predation or other. On this basis, the European Commission took legal advice and was confident that it had the authority to introduce measures to reduce fishing mortality from recreational fishing.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER MEASURES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING?

In January the UK, following pressure from anglers, was successful in getting the EU to agree to the use of emergency measures closing the Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel, English Channel and southern North Sea to pelagic trawling (including the use of ‘pair’ trawls) from January 2015 to April 30th 2014. This was due to a threat to the reproductive capacity of the stock as pelagic trawlers at this time of year actively target aggregating, spawning adult bass and are responsible for approximately 30 per cent of total fishing mortality for bass. This was the first time Article 12 of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy had been used and only the fifth or sixth time emergency measures have ever been used by the EU.

The closure of the pelagic fishery was a very big step to take but came on the condition that proportionate measures would also apply to other fisheries in a non-discriminatory way. These other fisheries included recreational and ‘mixed’ fisheries. Member States were able to agree on a bag limit for recreational fisheries more easily than on measures for the other commercial or ‘mixed’ fisheries where a main concern was that discards might increase as a consequence of new management measures for commercial fisheries.

Informal proposals then came to light suggesting monthly vessel limits for commercial fisheries and the possibility of a new minimum legal size of 42cm for recreational fishing only. The Angling Trust lobbied hard with arguments for any new MLS to apply to all fisheries and argued that the proposals put forward for catch limits would leave up to 90 per cent of the UK’s inshore fleet untouched by restrictions, despite contributing the most to fishing mortality out of any of the UK’s bass fisheries.

The Angling Trust, BASS and members of the European Anglers Alliance met for a second time with the Commission in Brussels to discuss the proposals being put forward for the mixed fisheries. We were subsequently successful in submitting evidence from the UK showing that many more of the UK’s bass fisheries were actually targeted fisheries and should therefore be subject to controls on bass fishing without increasing discards. 🐟



As a result of this, and due to more evidence that has come to light, the proposals for restrictions on other commercial fisheries are now expected to be:

- Monthly vessel limits by fishing method (weights to be confirmed).
- A new MLS of 42cm for all fisheries (including recreational catches).
- Seasonal closures to be determined by fishing method.

These will be introduced through a combination of amendments to the 2015 TAC and quota regulation and the use of Article 45 of the technical conservation regulation 850/98 which allows the Commission to use its implementing powers to take immediate action – something the Angling Trust and partners have been calling on the Commission to do since discussions began at the start of the year.

If agreed, this will be a very significant shift towards the package of measures being more balanced and the commercial fishing sector playing a more balanced role in reducing total bass fishing mortality. We are pushing for these measures to be implemented at the earliest opportunity and consider that we have had a significant amount of influence over making sure that commercial fisheries take more responsibility for restoring the stock.

WHY WAS THE BAG LIMIT INTRODUCED BEFORE MEASURES FOR OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES WERE KNOWN?

As previously mentioned, agreement was reached by the EU Council on a three fish bag limit for recreational catches quite early on. Agreement on measures for 'mixed' commercial fisheries has been much more difficult. The Angling Trust, supported by the government, called on the introduction of the bag limit to be postponed until the measures for other commercial fisheries were known, in order for us to judge whether the package of measures was balanced. However, there was intense political pressure on the UK, having instigated the emergency measures that closed the pelagic fishery, not to delay the introduction of further measures to support it. As a result the bag limit was introduced as an 'in year' amendment, along with amendments to other fisheries, of the 2015 TAC and Quota regulations.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT YEAR?

The use of emergency measures for a second time should not be ruled out. However, they will be difficult to justify given that the situation is known and therefore should not constitute an emergency. The status of bass will decline in 2015 and the pelagic fishery will still pose a threat to the reproductive capacity of the stock. If emergency measures are not used the Commission and Member States will have to explore other avenues to maintain the closure. The Angling Trust has called on the Government to make sure the closure becomes permanent so that this unsustainable fishery is not allowed to reopen.

Other measures introduced using the TAC and quota regulations will need to be re-agreed annually. Other measures which are amendments to the EU technical conservation regulation will be open ended and rollover into 2016.

WILL THESE MEASURES BE ENOUGH TO RESTORE BASS?

The total reduction in fishing mortality that the three elements of the 2015 measures will deliver is unclear due to proposals for a new MLS and seasonal closures which are yet to be calculated. However, it is clear that the reduction will be nowhere near the 80 per cent reduction in landings advised by ICES or the 60 per cent reduction in fishing mortality needed to reach MSY. ICES issues its advice for 2016 in the summer which will provide an update on the status of the stock and advice on landings. We are seeking commitment from the government for it to follow the scientific advice in full when it is published.

WHY THREE FISH?

The Commission's original proposal to be adopted at the Council's December meeting was for one fish per-person-per-day. This was rejected by the Council. The Angling Trust and European Anglers Alliance had argued against a one fish bag limit (and against compulsory catch and release) for a long time. This has been communicated to the EU in various ways including meeting with Commission representatives in Brussels last year and in February this year to explain, among other things, why a one or zero fish bag limit would be unfair on anglers and would have a damaging impact on the jobs and businesses reliant on recreational bass angling.

This position was supported by other angling organisations across the EU. Member States listened to our arguments and finally it was agreed to amend the proposal and increase the bag limit from one to three fish per day which, if complemented by proportionate controls on commercial fishing, would be more balanced as well as contributing to recreational anglers reducing their impact on bass stocks. This bag limit also discourages illegal sales of bass from unlicensed commercial fishermen claiming to be fishing recreationally.

IS THERE A LONG TERM PLAN?

Not yet, but there is commitment to develop a long-term management plan (also known as multi-annual plan) for bass. However, proposals for this are not expected to be made until 2017 and will take approximately two years to be agreed through co-decision between the European Council, Commission and the European Parliament (which adopted a resolution on bass earlier this month which included a request to the Commission to bring forward the development of a multi-annual plan).

WILL THE DISCARD BAN APPLY TO BASS?

Yes, but not immediately. Timings are unclear but we expect discards of bass to be banned over coming years. This will have implications for minimum landing sizes and minimum conservation reference sizes, which have replaced the MLS for quota species since the CFP was reformed. It is therefore very important in our opinion that commercial fishers change to more selective gears and practices now and not after the discard ban takes effect. That will secure a smooth transition to a sustainable bass fishery with little or no discards. ☺



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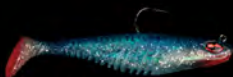
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SUNSET

BUBBLEGUM PINK

BLUE MACKEREL



BLUE MACKEREL



BUBBLEGUM PINK



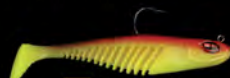
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Technically advanced swimbaits with the following strike enhancing features:

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- Internal glass rattle
- **FACTOR A** strike stimulant



Roger Lowe with a 20lb cod taken on a small hook sized for bream. It's possible, but unlikely that he would catch a bream on a large hook sized for cod?



Matchman's Angle Part 3

HOOKS

When I said to Ex-England Boat Squad member and charter skipper Kev Sampson that for this month I would like to look at hooks, I thought that I would be lifting the lid on a very complicated subject.

I was predicting a myriad of patterns and sizes, possibly made by obscure manufacturers I had not heard of, but nothing could be further from the truth.

If I had to pick one word that covers nearly everything we spoke about, it would be 'Aberdeen'. Many years ago when I started fishing from the shore with my father, we often used Aberdeens. We didn't know them as such as we simply asked for 'Those new Fine Wire hooks' at our local tackle shop, and were sold Mustad 3282 Aberdeens in a bright nickel finish.

Back in the day (the seventies in this case), they were the latest 'big thing' and we felt we had made a quantum leap up from the long shank Kirby hooks that we had been using previously. As we are about to see though, things may have come full circle for me.

No Circles

Before getting onto Aberdeens, one of the first questions I asked Kev was if he used circle hooks at all. The answer to this one was an emphatic "No". While he totally acknowledged that circle hooks definitely work and



While he acknowledges that they work, Kev does not like circle hooks.

their lip-hooking capabilities are great for conservation, his style of fishing involves being in touch with what is going on at all times. The fact that with a

circle hook, you give line to the fish and do not strike is counter-intuitive to Kev's style.

With regards to conservation, the level of concentration when

competition fishing combined with the fact that a deeply hooked fish costs you time, means that clean hooking is encouraged as a matter of course. 🐟



Size 2 3254NP-BN on the right, size 4 3261NP-BN on the left.



"The Hook" for garfish – this one is well used.

Kev's Mustad 3261NP-BN for bream & gurnards is about this big.



Kev's VMC Black Aberdeen for bass & rays is about this big.



The new 3254NP-BN may replace the 3261NP-BN as Kev's general purpose hook.

"The Hook" for wrasse.



"The Hook" for wrasse.

Competition fishing is all about catching whatever species of fish is under the boat on the day. Using a small but strong hook increases your chances of achieving this, and that is the philosophy that Kev encourages among his charter customers, especially 'rod hire' customers. As can be seen in the picture of Roger Lowe with his 20lb cod caught while bream fishing, you can catch a big fish on tackle intended for small fish. But, if Roger had been fishing with an 8/0 hook for cod and a 2lb bream had attacked the bait, would he have still hooked the bream? It's possible he might have, but the odds would certainly have been stacked against him.

Good Old Aberdeens

Now, back to Aberdeens. We first started with Kev's general-purpose hook. This is what he would target the likes of gurnards, bream and flatfish in competition and would also use on traces for his 'rod hire' customers aboard his Yarmouth-based charter boat when those fish are being targeted.

The hook in question is the Mustad Aberdeen 3261NP-BN Ultrapoint. For competition work

size 4 would probably be considered general purpose, but for his customers he would probably go up a size or two. Kev has been using that hook for many years and has found that it works brilliantly for all baits and is a true 'all rounder'.

Kev's house is a stone's throw from UK Hooks and it would be very surprising if there wasn't some knowledge transfer between the two, and the most recent example of this is a new hook that is being stocked that looks likely to replace the 3261NP-BN in Kev's armoury.

A New Style

The new kid on the block is the Mustad Short Shank Aberdeen 3254NP-BN. This is again an Ultrapoint hook, which according to Mustad means that a three-stage grinding process is employed, producing a very sharp needle point, but because more of the metal remains the point won't roll or lose sharpness.

Ultrapoint hooks also feature a three-stage tempering process that is said to result in a hook up to 30 per cent stronger than conventionally tempered hooks. Whatever Mustad claim, Kev uses them with confidence and has

no worries about their strength, despite the small sizes he uses.

One thing to bear in mind when comparing these two hooks is that because of the short shank, a size 2 in the new 3254NP-BN pattern is about the same size as a size 4 in Kev's old favourite 3261NP-BN, as can be seen in the picture.

VMC Blacks

When larger fish like rays and bass are being targeted or may be encountered, Kev steps up to another Aberdeen pattern hook, the VMC Black Aberdeen. Kev uses these mainly in sizes 2/0 to 4/0, but 1/0 and 6/0 hooks are also available. These are a very strong hook but they retain the fine wire characteristics of an Aberdeen, which makes them suitable for all baits including worms threaded up the trace.

Again, Kev uses these in competitions and on traces for his customers, so there is no denying the faith he places in his hook selections. I have to admit that I was very impressed by the Black Aberdeen, which was a hook I had not looked at previously. It is the kind of hook that could comfortably be used for bass as it

looks like a finesse pattern but if something like a nice sized ray came along and snaffled your bait, you're still going to get the fish to the boat even in a strong tide. As long as the fish were lip hooked and your trace didn't get bitten through, the same could be said for tope and conger.

Big Fish Hooks

Now that we have mentioned the likes of tope and conger, I asked Kev what he would use for those species specifically or for the big cod that frequent the Needles in the winter. For these fish, Kev uses the UK Hooks Long Big Mouth mainly in sizes 8/0 to 10/0.

This is again an Aberdeen pattern hook but is much thicker in the wire than traditionally associated with an Aberdeen, while still being far less chunky and a having a far better point than something like an old-school O'Shaughnessy (there are O'Shaughnessy hooks available now with great points by the way). An added bonus of the Long Big Mouth hooks is that they are very competitively priced for such a big hook, which is an important consideration for a skipper when making up rod hire traces.

Given that we have been all the way from the likes of gurnards up to conger without stepping outside of one basic hook pattern, it is pretty easy to see how versatile the Aberdeen is and how even when looking at international competition work, the adage of keeping things simple still hold true. Kev did have a couple more hooks to show me though.

The first was a tiny extra long shank hook made by Partridge. This, according to Kev, is "The Hook" for garfish. Baited with a tiny belly slice of mackerel, this hook is dynamite and dramatically increases your hook-up rate. Kev thinks it is the length of the shank that is the reason but like everything in angling, it is very difficult to know the exact reason. Whatever, Kev is unshakable in his conviction with regard to this hook and the final one he showed me.

This is "The Hook" for wrasse. It is a trout fly pattern with a long shank, kirbed point and a turned down eye. When baited, Kev keeps the bait

Kev uses the UK Hooks Long Big Mouth for conger and cod.



within the hook - never up the trace. Despite the small size, about a size 2, a 6lb wrasse can be dead-lifted over the gunwales if needed. Again Kev is unshakable, but for me, this hook takes me all the way back to

the size 2 Kirby 'flattie hooks' that I started fishing with in 1976. What goes around comes around as they say, and I hope Kev's knowledge has been helpful and maybe dispelled a few myths into the bargain. ☺

INFO

For more info on hooks, check out: www.uk-hooks.com or call: 01983 868687, for some of the best advice in the business.

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Driven by patented Camba Technology, the HandiMoova foldable handcart is capable of tackling any terrain, including steps, with ease. It's smooth on-road and off-road - a genuine tough and dependable workhorse.

Camba Technology allows the HandiMoova to perform unlike any other handcart, which is great news for boat owners and anglers alike. Thanks to a compact storage footprint, it's easy to transport in the car and so always to hand when needed.

The HandiMoova can shift up to 60kg of gear. You will be amazed at how the clever Camba Technology allows you to move stuff. Combine HandiMoova with the waterproof 135-litre HandiDuffel cargo bag to create a brilliant solution to get all of your boating and fishing gear from the car to your berth. Just simply use a bungee to attach the HandiDuffel and off you go!

And once you're done, the HandiMoova folds-up neatly and can be stowed in a cupboard or below deck.

The HandiMoova is manufactured utilising high quality materials and is backed by a two-year warranty against manufacturing defect.

What is Camba Technology?

There are two elements to the patented Camba Technology that drives the HandiMoova – an Active Variable Footprint and the Floating Axle Suspension. Camba Technology is simple and robust; there are no fancy mechanisms or high technologies involved. The technology constantly optimises the rolling performance of each wheel.

Active Variable Footprint

A sphere or ball adapts to whatever surface it is being rolled on. On a hard surface it uses just a small

contact area and on a soft surface (sand for example), it uses a large contact area. If you were to cut the sphere or ball in half and mount each side on an inclined axle, there you have the principle of the Camba hemispherical wheel.

Like a ball, the footprint or surface area of the Camba wheel changes progressively and intuitively to whatever surface it is being rolled on. You have a low contact area for hard surfaces (like a bicycle wheel) and a large contact area for soft surfaces (such as a balloon tyre) – the best of both worlds. This makes Camba Technology the perfect all-terrain wheel.

Floating Axle Suspension

By mounting the Camba wheels on a Floating Axle, you not only allow each wheel to move independently of the other, but also create the visual effect of the wheels both rolling and 'walking' over obstacles. This action allows the Camba wheels to 'smooth' out any bumps or rough terrain making it easier for the user to keep their load balanced on the HandiMoova without the risk of spilling, whilst reducing physical input. Please watch the following video to see the Camba wheels in action.

Camba wheels perform unlike any other wheel on steps and



stairs. When going down a step, the force of gravity on the wheel and axle allows it to drop just milliseconds before the load. This keeps the load stable and the HandiMoova handcart balanced. When the Camba wheels are pulled up against a step, they continue to rotate on the axle and in doing so create a less vertical and easier pulling angle for the user.

Designed For Ease of Use

The HandiMoova foldable handcart has been designed with simplicity and ease of use in mind and to be manageable for all age groups. In addition it features a telescopic handle with three stop points to provide comfort for users of differing heights.

To extend the handle you simply have push a small button to release the locking mechanism and pull the handle upwards. To shorten the handle, press the button and push downwards. When the load plate is pushed up towards the frame, the wheels will automatically fold inwards into their stowed position. When the load plate is pushed out, the wheel brackets unfold and the HandiMoova is ready for its duties.

Storage Footprint

Storage is a key element in the design of the HandiMoova. We wanted to create a solution that could fit easily in the boot of the car and not be obtrusive when stored at home or in the office.

Once folded, the HandiMoova has a very compact and neat storage footprint. If added space saving is required, that's not a problem as the Camba wheels are easily removed from the Floating Axles.

Using the HandiMoova

You can load up your HandiMoova to move up to 60kg of equipment, although we recommend less for going up and down stairs. For soft sand we recommend no more than 50kg (that's still a full 70 litre cool box!).

If you need to transport lots of smaller items, then placing all of these into one of our fully waterproof HandiDuffels makes a great sense. The HandiDuffel can be easily secured to the HandiMoova by using good quality bungee straps.



*The unit folds down neatly for easy storage.
The wheels can be taken off to make
stowing even easier.*

High Quality Materials

HandiMoovas are manufactured utilising carefully selected and specified materials to ensure excellent durability and loading performance.

- Wheel hubs - shock / impact resistant Polypropylene (PP) plastic
- Tyres - Polyurethane (PU) foam
- Frame - aluminium
- Floating Axles - marine grade stainless steel

Weights & Loads

- The weight of the HandiMoova (unloaded) is 5kg
- Maximum load capacity when pulled - 60kg
- Maximum load capacity for stairs (guideline only) - 40kg
- Maximum load capacity for soft sand (guideline only) - 50kg

HandiMoova Dimensions

- Frame height 1150mm
- Dimensions (folded)
Depth 215mm x Width 485mm x Height 800mm
- Dimensions (unfolded)
Depth 500mm x Width 740mm x Height 1150mm
- Wheel base 390mm
- Wheel diameter 250mm

Use It With Handiduffel

The waterproof HandiDuffel, RRP £49.99, is tailored to fit inside the HandiHoldall 320 litre soft roof box (1 or 2 units) or can be mounted

to a HandiRack HR20 inflatable roof rack.

It provides 135-litres of dry storage space and is perfect for the stowing of clothes and other textile items which must be kept dry. Furthermore, a HandiDuffel is also designed to be securely attached to HandiWorld's HandiRack HR20 providing customers with a great cargo storage solution for smaller cars or for those short trips away.

The HandiDuffel is manufactured using the same production process and technology as dry bags, where the sections of the extremely strong and durable 18oz Polyester Tarpaulin material are electronically welded together under intense

heat and pressure. This creates a very strong fused bond that acts as a barrier to water and moisture. Furthermore, the Polyester Tarpaulin is laminated with a PVC coating.



INFO

For more details on these products and the huge range of other gear, visit:
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JAKE'S WORLD

BFM reader, Jake Watson, continues his monthly series about his fishing and boating exploits off the Devon coast.

March is a month with limited opportunities to take to the water, and a limited number of species potentially available to catch if you are lucky enough to get afloat. This March, my situation was not improved by the addition of a visit to the dentist. Now, my dentist is a lovely chap. He's friendly, efficient, tells me my teeth are okay and gives them a good polish. He's never done me any harm, or caused me any pain (apart from at the till!). So why don't we like going? I haven't had a filling since I was about 15 and I still have my trouble-free wisdom teeth. Maybe it's just the British psyche – we look forward to going to the pub, we dread going to the dentist!

A Great Find

From my recent visit, however, that biased nonsense has now all stopped for me. I sat in the reception area and, in amongst the drivel telling me which talentless celebrity was naming their baby something they'd come to hate, was a copy of 'Kayak Diver'. Not my first choice of reading matter I'll grant you, but maybe an acceptable browse for my short stay in the waiting room. It turned out to be not just acceptable, in fact, but potentially a brilliant find.

An article caught my eye because the picture was of the coastline in my fishing area. It went on to describe a wreck dive, close to the coast, and just a couple of miles from the mouth of the Salcombe

A picture of The Maine when it started life as the Sierra Blanca.



Estuary. It described how the ship, The Maine, had been the victim of a U-boat attack in 1917 and showed pictures of the propeller being removed in the 80's to be sold for scrap to fund the dive club.

I'd heard of this wreck but didn't know where it was exactly. That was until my annual inspection of molars etc. The concluding paragraph to the article gave a precise latitude and longitude of the wreck and this information was quickly transferred to my mobile. I wasn't expecting much from a trip to the dentist, and certainly wasn't expecting to come away armed with a new fishing mark to try!

I don't do very much wreck fishing at all. There are wrecks within my fishing patch but most are so washed out it's more like fishing a shallow bank, or small patch of rough ground, rather than fishing a proper wreck. But, in the angling doldrums of March, the potential for the additional species that a wreck might yield is too hard to resist. From an inshore mark in early spring, there would undoubtedly be pollack on the wreck but I'd be hoping for a cod, a bass or a ling. Maybe a turbot patrolling the wreck's perimeter, or the chance of conger from a smaller tide. There is always an unknown element and huge potential in a wreck, and the thought of trying a new one is just irresistible for anyone with a boat and a rod, isn't it? The proof of the pudding, however...

Off To Explore

So, with the coordinates punched into the GPS, I set off on a very acceptable day in late March to give it a go. It was the day after the solar eclipse, which, on the plus side, was a 'two tide day', giving an extended period on

Lug and squid were the order of the day.



the water, spanning the low tide period. On the down side though, it was also one of the biggest tides of the year, and potentially a bit swift for fishing a wreck. Everyone will have their own take on wrecking tides, but I think about a knot and a half of movement over a wreck is a decent maximum.

We'd had a nice sea-calming fog for two days and the weekend weather as I set off, was a chilly but superb day for March. The

view of the first little creek that I pass in the estuary shows just how nice a morning it was.

A little way further down the estuary I had a call from a fishing friend who is lucky enough to have a river view from his house, and had seen me heading out. After a chat about what was going on, the two things I really didn't want to hear from him were: "I haven't fished The Maine, but heard it just holds loads of small pollack."

The wreck site is pretty close to the shore.



And: "The east wind's getting a bit fresh later."

Just great! His plan was to go to a spey-casting demonstration on very scenic patch of the River Dart, followed by a nice lunch by the water no doubt. Was he about to miss out on a productive start to the boat fishing season, or was his the better plan of an older (wiser?) fisherman?

Fish On

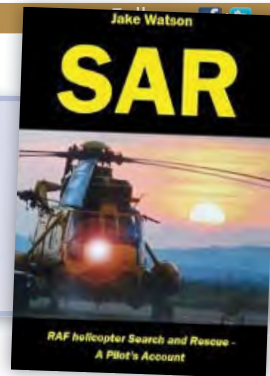
Well, I arrived at site of The Maine with the stunning backdrop of Bolt Tail and Soar Mill Cove. I had calm seas, the sun out and a light northerly breeze giving me a drift of just one knot across the wreck. Perfect! Even better, I was straight into fish. Sadly, the fish I was straight into were all the predicted small pollack. Several changes of lure and then a few different baits all brought up more pollack. The black lug and squid head combo was the most

popular but neither the species, nor the size, changed from my initial catch.

With the drift now up to two and a half knots it was time to bid The Maine farewell for the day. Luckily, the drift direction was straight toward one of my favourite spots, The Caton Bank. In a last ditch attempt before leaving The Maine, I decided to drag a pre-tied wreck rig along the bottom to see if there was anything lurking at the wreck margins and just beyond. The rig, from Fladen, comprised a metal spoon-type attractor, a muppet and then a hook, which I'd baited with a couple of small squid. From a featureless bit of ground, and half a mile plus away from the wreck, a thumping little take resulted in the first, and unfortunately the only, codling of the day coming onto the boat. It wasn't a monster but big enough to put a smile on your face and a fillet in the pan!

About Jake Watson

Jake is an avid recreational angler, author and ex-RAF Search and Rescue helicopter pilot. To read about his previous career, find Jake's book 'SAR' on Amazon for your kindle or e-reader.



To Fast To Fish

Further out at the Caton Bank, the north wind had veered to the east and strengthened. This, coupled with the full force of the ebbing tide, gave me a ridiculous drift speed of four knots. You can see from the plotter that I had a go at covering the pinnacle, but the reward was just pouting close to the sea bed and a big fat nothing higher in the water! Maybe I should have gone spey-casting!

I'm not grumbling though. A handful of fish (and one for the pot!) is fine in my book for this time of year. Predictably for March,

the wreck of The Maine did not quite meet the catch rate of my optimistic expectation, but I will look forward to repeated visits to see how it fishes as the season progresses. Strangely, I'm also looking forward to my next visit to the dentist – I might even get there early for a proper rummage around the magazine rack!

INFO

The Maine is at N50.12.820 by W003.51.045 (let me know if you have any success there: Jake@JakeWatsonSAR.co.uk)

A welcome catch for this time of year.



If they'd have been there, I would have found them.

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Magical Mexico

I Des Westmore recalls a recent family holiday to Mexico, where he and his family caught all manner of species.



Part of the Catalonia Riviera Maya resort.



Glenna and her husband Bob, the rightly proud owners of Captain Rick's.



*Bronwyn's tuna
safely aboard.*



Deckhand Nestor rigs a ballyhoo for trolling.



Nestor shows off the fully rigged bait.



We trolled near to floating rafts of weed hoping for a Mahi Mahi.



One fish caught by two anglers at the same time the greedy barracuda.

Bronwyn does battle with her tuna.



For our last holiday we returned for the second year running to the Catalonia Riviera Maya hotel at Puerto Aventuras in Mexico. We'd had a great time on the previous trip but hadn't done everything we planned to and of course, Captain Rick's charter outfit is a only a ten minute walk from the hotel and the fishing starts almost as soon as you leave the marina. Who wouldn't want to go back?

For our trips we requested our previous years' skipper 'Flaco'. I am sure all Captain Rick's skippers are good, but he'd put us on the fish before so it seemed the right thing to do. We were travelling at the end of the year, which is not the optimum time for trolling, but we weren't worried as we enjoy bottom fishing, which is pretty consistent all year round.

Let's Get Fishing

It is usual to do some trolling on the way to the bottom fishing marks so as not to waste any fishing time, so this meant the first job was for deckhand 'Nestor' to prepare a selection of ballyhoo baits. It was

Marilyn with a nice jack.*Bronwyn with the first red snapper of the trip.*

pretty obvious he had done this before and it wasn't long until we had our first hit. My daughter Bronwyn always takes the first fish when trolling, and no sooner had she grabbed the rod we had our second hit, which my wife Marilyn took.

This was great, we'd only been fishing ten minutes and already had a double hook up. As the girls got to work on their fish, it soon became apparent that something was wrong. At first I thought the lines were tangled but then it dawned on me - there was only one fish, a greedy barracuda, and it had hit both baits. An unusual start to the trip that got me wondering if was to be the shape of things to come.

We started fishing again and very soon I was reeling in my first fish of the trip in the form of a small skipjack tuna. It was nowhere as big as the

barracuda, a fact I was not allowed to forget. We trolled a bit longer than we planned to as there were some huge rafts of weed floating around and we hoped to make contact with a Mahi Mahi, which love to hang around under cover of the weed. Despite the perfect cover for them, it wasn't really the right time of year and we struck out on the Mahi Mahi, but did get more barracuda and skipjack tuna before we switched over to bottom fishing.

Bottom Fishing

Marilyn and Bronwyn used 12lb class outfits supplied by Captain Rick's, while I used my trusty Conolon travel uptider and Abu 7000. Terminal tackle was simplicity itself in the form of a drilled bullet and some heavy mono ending in a small but strong hook. I had brought with me a

selection Veals Chinu and Tronix Pro Big Dog hooks in sizes from 1 to 2/0. Both patterns proved perfect and I left all the hooks we didn't use with Nestor. Hopefully they have pulled in plenty of fish in our absence.

Using strips of ballyhoo and skipjack tuna we soon had some small fish in the boat. On our previous trip, we had loads of triggerfish, so we were surprised that we didn't see one. Bronwyn was fishing a long strip of ballyhoo and was reeling in slowly to check it, a technique that resulted in the mid-water hook-up of a Horseye Jack on our previous trip. The method worked again and her rod buckled over as what was obviously a good fish tore off.

Bronwyn was doing a great job of playing the fish but had recently had surgery on her elbow so had to enlist a bit of help with the

rod from mum. Between the two of them they got the fish under control, which turned out to be a blackfin tuna of around 20lb. Not only was I now very happy as we had our first 'proper' fish of the trip, but I was also drooling at the thought of eating it.

Our next fish was a nice jack for Marilyn, closely followed by a red snapper for Bronwyn. We also had a selection of strawberry groupers, which proved more than willing to take big baits, even whole ballyhoo. It was as I was taking a picture of a particularly greedy grouper when Marilyn gave a shout that she was into something that was heading for the horizon. She battled with this for around fifteen minutes and the fish was just getting near the boat when it shed the hook. We were all gutted. Flaco and Nestor felt it was another blackfin, which would have been bigger than the one we already had in the boat. Damn!

Not long after, I was just dropping my bait in when something hit it about thirty feet down. It was running and twisting all over the place and every now and then I caught a glimpse of what looked like a smoothhound in the clear water. I thought it must be some kind of small shark but when I got it in the boat it turned out to be the most unusual fish I have ever caught. Nestor called it a 'Sucker Fish', which is the local term for a Remora. I have seen these loads of times stuck to sharks, but never dreamt I would catch one and never realised they got as big as the one I caught. ►

A particularly greedy strawberry grouper.



Des and his remora.



It's easy to see why a remora is known as a 'Sucker Fish'.

That was pretty much the end of our first trip and we retired to the 'Hippo Bar' in the marina. This bar does a superb job of cooking up any fish you take there, and we sat outside and planned our next trips.

More Of The Same

Subsequent trips proved to be similar to the first one, except for the weather, which became a bit more unsettled at times. In fact, the horizon would look like something apocalyptic, then the swell would build, then an hour later we would be in the blazing sun again. Strangely, despite the ominous skies, it never rained.

Bronwyn managed a nice double-shot of skipjack tuna, which gave her the run around while I pulled in a treble-shot of blackfin. Okay, they were like big mackerel, but as far as I was concerned I had a treble hit of tuna and that is all that mattered.

At the time of the trip I had just turned fifty, so my daughter kitted me out with the biggest butt pad she could find on board to give the 'Old Man' some help. Thanks!

Bronwyn bagged another unusual, if a tad dangerous fish, this time a lionfish with its array of poisonous spines. We also managed some lovely snapper and grouper, which meant another trip to the Hippo - it's a tough job but someone's got to do it. Finally, I did get a triggerfish. It was the only one of the trip - so different to last time. As is often the way in the Caribbean there is a resident population of tarpon in the harbour, but we were not expecting to see the spectacular spotted eagle ray that swum by when we were back on the quay.

Des and the only triggerfish of the trip - so different to last year.



INFO

Fishing at Puerto Aventuras is all-year-round and Captain Rick's offer a selection of trip durations in a variety of boats. Glenna and her husband Bob are both very helpful, and you can join a fishing group as an individual or charter the whole boat for yourself. There are too many options to list here so the best thing to do is look at Captain Rick's website.

The Catalonia Riviera Maya is an all-inclusive hotel and spar located in a secure gated marina community. The beauty of this combination is that you could travel here with a bunch of angling buddies for a full-on fishing holiday or, as I have done, combine it with a fantastic family holiday and you won't waste any time travelling to the boat or the fishing grounds.

If you don't fancy sitting in the sun with a drink when not

fishing, there is lots to do and the snorkelling is excellent. I would definitely recommend swimming with the turtles at Akumal. There are also plenty of Mayan archaeological sites to visit as well as theme and water parks.

There is no need to take any fishing gear but for if you want to, for the bottom fishing I would recommend a 50-100g spinning outfit and a 6-12lb class downtide outfit. A few small leads, small strong hooks and some 40-50lb trace line are all that is needed. If (when!) I go again, I will definitely

pack some speed jigs as I think we could have made contact with some more tuna if we'd had them. I haven't tried it but I would think LRF fans could have good fun too. Unless you're really into trolling, I wouldn't recommend taking that gear as it will seriously eat into your airline luggage allowance.

Talking of airlines we travelled independently on this trip using scheduled Virgin Atlantic flights into Cancun and booked the hotel using an on line agency but both Thomas Cook and Thomson offer package deals to this hotel. ☎

USEFUL LINKS

Fishing: www.captricksfishing.com

Swimming With Turtles: www.oceantoursmexico.com

Online Booking: www.zsleepinghotels.com

Flights: www.virgin-atlantic.com

Hotel: www.cataloniacaribbean.com/us/our_hotels/caribbean/mexico/riviera_maya/hotel_catalonia_riviera_maya/index.jsp

Snowbee®



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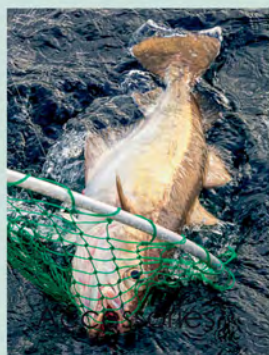
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Tuf-Line XP



Accessories



Large filleting board



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Plymouth Devon, PL7 5JY Tel 01752 334933

www.snowbee.co.uk

MOONFLEET ANGLING

YUKI BOAT RODS

Sapporo £129

Here you have Series of adjustable spinning rods of exceptional versatility. You can change the action of the rod with a simple twist of the wrist. These rods have been specially developed for hard and soft lures and light rock fishing. Rings Fuji K and Fuji DPS reel holder.



Unica Boat Line £32.85

Manufactured from high modulus carbon, this three-piece, 2.10m long rod comes supplied with three interchangeable tips – perfect for any UK boat fishing situation.



Kannon Spin £139.99

Designed for use with a multiplier reel, this versatile carbon blank can extend from 1.8m to 2.1m. It's perfect for UK bass, pollack and cod fishing with lures.



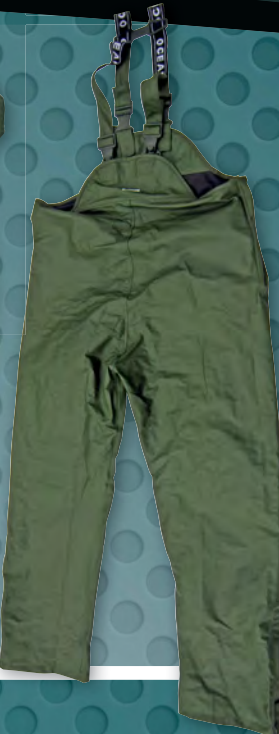
Manacor From £69.67

This hugely popular multi-tip boat rod is available in two lengths – 2.4m and 3m. The stiff action coupled with the softness of the three interchangeable tips makes this the perfect all-round rod for match and pleasure anglers.



YUKI COOLBOXES £35, £65 and £100

Packed full of features, these three coolboxes are guaranteed to keep your bait and fish in tip-top condition. Available in three sizes; Small (51x11x30cm), Medium (60x13x35cm) and Large (75x16x45cm).



OCEAN RAINWEAR BIB 'N' BRACE COMFORT STRETCH TROUSERS From £32

Features:

- Elasticated braces with fix lock buckles.
- Fastening press studs at waist for adjustment.
- Ankles area includes vertical release zip and Velcro adjustable fastening at hem.

YUKI LINES

Max Line £8.50

This extra strong round braid has been specially treated during the braiding process to achieve superior strength and softness.



Extra Soft Leader From £6.30

This nylon and silicone line has high elasticity and near zero memory. This makes it ideal for any application. Very easy to handle, has a high knot strength and absorbs any impact immediately.



Orata Mono £8.00

One of Yuki's latest generation of sand coloured silicone lines, the silicone coating prevents water absorption, gives exceptional tensile strength and very high knot strength.



Invisible 4G Red £10 to £15.50

Just like the original 3G line, this new Invisible Red offers exceptional abrasion resistance and superb casting qualities.

Available in 0.16mm, 0.22mm, 0.30mm and 0.40mm on 300m spools.



Invisible 3G £10.50 to £16

Yuki Invisible 3G is a superb casting line. The fluorine coating process gives it superb abrasion resistance, so it's perfect for rough ground and wreck fishing.

Available in 0.18mm, 0.20mm, 0.22mm, 0.25mm, 0.28mm, 0.30mm, 0.35mm and 0.40mm on 150m or 300m spools.



3G FD Evolution £10 to £17

Invisible underwater, this pink-coloured line features a special coating that provides high UV resistance and excellent abrasion resistance.

Available in 0.12mm, 0.18mm, 0.35mm and 0.45mm on 150m or 300m spools.



FISHUS LBF LURES £2.75 to £3.99

An extensive range of Light Boat Fishing soft plastics, including the curly tail SHITSU, the stickbait KEIKO and imitation shrimp EBI. Designed for use with the FishUs jigheads for species such as bass, pollack, bream and wrasse.



FISHUS JIGHEADS £4.99

Designed for use with the FishUs soft plastic range of lures. Available in a wide range of colours, you get 10 jigheads per pack.



FISHUS SHADE SOFTBAITS £9.99 and £11.99

These soft 'minnow' baits are proven bass catchers, but pollack and cod love them too. Available in 8.5cm and 10.5cm. 10 lures per pack.



GRAUVELL KONA JIGHEADS £3.99 to £4.99

The perfect jighead to use with a variety of soft plastics. Available in a range of weights including 7g, 14g, 25g and 75g.



YUKI STAIN ROCK 10 REEL £100

Designed for LRF fishing, this reel has a retrieve ratio of 5.1 to 1 and ten ball bearings – which is why it's ultra smooth to use. The anodized aluminium spool can hold a whopping 215 metres of 0.18mm braid, which equates to around 20lb.



NORWAY SPECIALISTS

Huge selection of tried and tested lures available.

Savage Gear Cutbait Herring £12.99 And £16.99

Proven big halibut, cod and coalfish catchers, the Cutbait Herring is available in a wide range of colours in 20cm (270g) and 25cm (460g).



Savage Gear 3D Herring £15.99 And £17.99

Advanced lure manufacturing techniques that include 3D scanning and 3D modelling has produced one of the most lifelike and effective big fish catchers of all time. The 3D Herring is available in a range of colours in 25cm (300g) and 32cm (560g).



Eddystone Eel 2013 £6.99

Available in nine different colour combinations, the Eddystone Eel 2013 has already accounted for some huge halibut, cod and coalfish in Norway. Available in 150mm (24g) and 250mm (104g).



Kinetic Big Bob £20.00 And £25.00

Without doubt one of the most consistent big halibut and cod catching lures available. The Big Bob comes in eight classic colours and is available in 480g and 730g weights.



Kinetic Flat Matt £17.99

Measuring 245mm long and weighing 400g, the Flat Matt has a reputation for boating huge halibut over in Norway. Available in seven different colours.



PENN FATHOM REELS £149.99

Available in 15 or 20 sizes, these reels are extremely robust and well built. Both feature bronze alloy gears and machined stainless steel pinion gears. With Penn's HT100 drag system and comfortable power handles, the Fathoms will handle anything you throw at them.



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Gear bag

Des Westmore takes a look at some great new luggage and sunglasses from Snowbee – the perfect holiday fishing combination...

My recent trip to Mexico gave me a chance to test a couple of items from Snowbee that would have been a lot harder to test at home. Good luggage is always needed on any trip, and a long-haul holiday combined with fishing is never going to be an exception. For many years we always used hard cases, and while these afford great protection to their contents, they are not always easily manoeuvred, take up a lot of space in a taxi's boot and are difficult to store in hotel.

Snowbee XS Travel Bag

For the past three years or so we have switched to soft, holdall style luggage, and for this reason I was very keen to see how Snowbee's XS Travel Bag performed. Soft luggage requires that anything delicate is given internal protection to prevent crushing. The XS Travel Bag has an optional, removable 'Stowaway' compartment that can double-up as day luggage, as well as providing in-transit protection for fragile rods, reels, cameras, duty free bottles etc.

Before going any further, I would suggest taking a look at Snowbee's website to take a look at what the XS range of luggage looks like when filled with gear. I could have spent a lot of time doing this myself to set up a photo and would still not have done a better job! It will also give you a chance to take a look at the rest of the website, which has recently been re-vamped.

Getting back to the luggage itself, the 16447 XS Travel Bag is divided into upper and lower compartments. The bag has overall dimensions of 37in x 13.5in x 14in with the 40-litre base compartment having internal dimensions of 36in x



13in x 5in, the 43 litre main compartment having internal dimensions of 26.5in x 13in x 7.5in, while the two 19 litre end compartments are 6in x 13in x 7.5in each internally. This all gives an overall volume of 102 litres for a weight 4.5kg. This is therefore no small piece of luggage and that overall length should accommodate pretty much any travel rod without the need to resort to separate tubes that attract unwanted attention.

The upper and lower compartments already provide a wealth good organisational flexibility, but this is further enhanced by flexible nylon liners in the upper compartment. Quoting Snowbee this 'Allows the entire length of the bag to be used as the top compartment at the start of the trip by pushing the flexible liners into the ends of the bag. As time goes by, dirty clothing can be stored in these end compartments and the liners slowly extended into the main compartment area, keeping clean and dirty gear permanently separated'.

It's a great feature that really works well and will be a boon if your trip involves 'living out of a suitcase'. Other features include a roller-wheel system and pull-out handle; a base reinforced with a 6mm thick impact resistant frame; waterproof lower floor in the main compartment so that the base compartment can be used for wet gear; a suite of other features including internal mesh pockets, cinch straps, external document pockets and two-way lockable zips on all the main compartments.

Stowaway Case

The 16448 XS 'Stowaway' travel case fits inside the base compartment of the Travel Bag. This has dimensions of 36.5in x 10.2in x 5in overall, which gives internal dimensions of 35.5in x 9.5in x 4.5in, giving a volume 25 litres for an all-up weight of 2.5kg. I am giving you as much dimensional detail as I can, because I know how critical this is for working out if your gear will fit.

The Stowaway also has a two-way, lockable zip closure and an inner Velcro compatible liner so





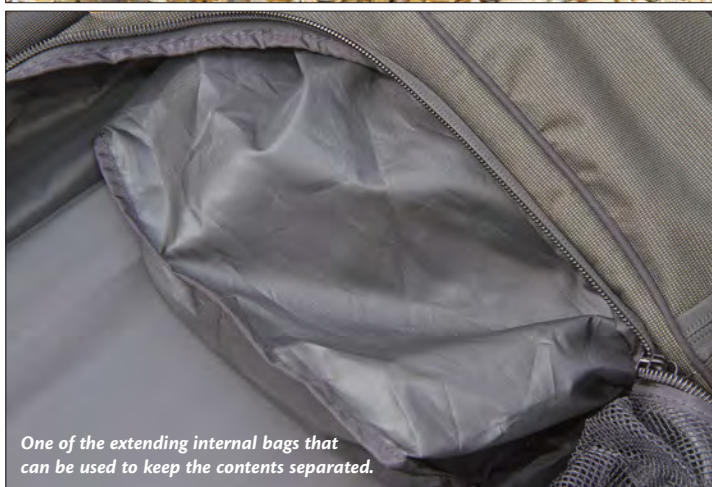
Two-way lockable zips are fitted along with cinch straps to stabilise the contents.



Quality wheels are fitted though some more protection on the bag would help for when it is stood upright.



A sturdy telescopic handle is fitted along with lots of protection for the base of the bag.



One of the extending internal bags that can be used to keep the contents separated.

that the internal dividers can be arranged to suit you. There are also three zipped external pockets and 3 'clear-view' internal pockets. This should hopefully satisfy all your needs to keep everything organised for the duration of your trip.

This is all very well, but how did the XS luggage perform in use? Well, it shrugged off any punishment that was dished out to it by the baggage handlers at Gatwick and Cancun, not to mention ferry trips and taxi rides. It is worth noting at this point that all the photographs shown here were

taken after the trip, not before.

The materials used in the construction of the XS range are definitely up to the job while handles, cinch straps and wheels are also fully functional and built to last. Were there any problems? Not as such, but while Snowbee claim that the XS travel bag can be stood on its end, I would like to see skids on the wheel-end to prevent chafing of the bag's outer shell and handle when stood upright. Also, please bear in mind the all-up weight - the XS Bag and the Stowaway are 'tough as old boots', but that

toughness results in a combined weight of 7kg. If you're on a charter or low-cost flight you may have an allowance of 20kg or less so over one third of this may be taken by your luggage. As it happened, my luggage allowance was 23kg but the combination of angling equipment, camera gear and clothes for two weeks meant I had to leave the Stowaway at home, even though I would have valued the extra piece of mind it would have given me.

In all probability, you won't be carrying as much gear as I was but you need to bear this in mind if

travelling by air. When all is said and done though, I would thoroughly recommend the XS Travel Bag as a great piece of luggage, whether you are on a fishing trip of just a holiday. It will swallow a mountain of gear and allow you to organise it while offering levels of protection not normally seen in soft luggage. Wheeling it around while fully loaded is easy, even of rough surfaces. The XS Stowaway is also worthy of recommendation, either as a piece of luggage in its own right or when combined with the Travel Bag. ●



The interior of the XS Stowaway showing the adjustable dividers.



The interior of the XS Travel Bag with the XS Stowaway removed.



A close-up of the lens of the Snowbee Prestige Magnifier sunglasses.

Snowbee Prestige Magnifier Sunglasses

The next piece of gear that saw action of the Mexico trip is a pair of Sunglasses. Like many people my age i.e. those who have just passed through the big five-oh barrier (it is about time Dave B changed the age on my profile to make

me more honest), my close focus eyesight is not what it once was.

While this doesn't bother me for things like baiting up, it can be a pain when tying a knot or sorting a tangle. Snowbee has come to the aid of anglers like

me by introducing a stylish pair of sunglasses with corrosion-proof plastic frames and quality polarized polycarbonate lenses, that also feature a discreet magnifying section at the bottom of the lens. Anything viewed through this area of the lens is

magnified 2.5X and that makes a whole world of difference.

It is an excellent idea, and when you are wearing the glasses, anyone else would have to look pretty close to see the magnifying area. The 18116 Prestige Magnifier Sunglasses are available in three frame/lens colour combinations; 18116-1 black/smoke, 18116-2 brown/amber and 18116-4 black/yellow. I used the black/smoke in Mexico, while the close up photograph of the lens shows the brown/amber style. Again, as with the luggage, this is another Snowbee product that I can recommend. Even without the magnifying section, the comfort of the frame and the great levels of polarization make them totally fit for purpose, while the addition of being able to wear them while working close-up is the icing on the cake. ☺

The Snowbee Prestige Magnifier sunglasses in use in Mexico.



PRICES AND INFO

To check current pricing on these or any other Snowbee products, and there are a lot, take a look at: www.snowbee.co.uk

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Dragonfly

Dragonfly 7

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EDITOR'S choice

BFM Ed, Dave Barham, takes a look at the latest lure/bait combination soft plastic to hit the shelves – the Marukyu AFBS Crab.



Marukyu AFBS Crabs

These realistic crab baits from Marukyu are amazing. I first discovered them on Facebook a couple of months ago, and as soon as I managed to get my hands on them I was suitably impressed.

AFBS stands for Artificial Fishing Bait Series, and Marukyu make no bones about describing these crabs as baits, rather than lures – although some folk would be g to differ. Either way, they seem to have produced something a little bit special in my eyes.

They are loaded with Marukyu's

signature range of flavours and additives, making them absolutely irresistible to fish – hence the 'bait' label, and they come in foil packets filled with a liquid additive to keep the baits from drying out. I guess this is just one of the reasons why these crabs work so well – they look and act very lifelike indeed.

You will see here that one of my preferred rigging methods involves pulling off a couple of the crab's legs – and just attempting that is testament to how good these crabs actually are – it's a

bit tricky to say the least, and it shows how well they will stand up to being hit and chewed by toothy critters like wrasse.

Fish Love Them

I usually only review kit that I've given a good thrashing, but seeing as how we're fast approaching the best time of the year for playing with artificials, I thought it only fair to let you all know about these little beauties so you too can get out and play with them.

To be honest, I've only had two sessions using these lure,

but I've caught a fair few fish so far – albeit small ones. The thing that excites me most about these crabs is their potential. So far I've caught baby pollack, gobies and wrasse with them, but I firmly believe that there is plenty of scope for bass, flounder, black bream and a whole host of other species too.

I can't wait to get back out there and give these crabs a proper fishing session. I'm going to try them on the plaice in a couple of weeks – and will report back with my findings in due course.

Sizes And Colours

Marukyu AFBS Crabs are available in three colours (purple, green and brown) in two sizes. The body width on the M size is 15mm and the L size is 20mm, minus the leg length.

You get ten crabs in a Medium pack and eight crabs per pack of Large. Each pack costs £5.99.



The foil packets contain a liquid, which the crabs are immersed in to prevent them from drying out.

Front Rigging

This is the most obvious choice for rigging these crabs. Here I've used a ½oz jighead, which I have simply passed through the body, starting at the back so that the hook point protrudes out of the front of the crab.

This presentation works extremely well when you're fishing straight up and down (vertical jigging style). It's also the best approach if you're fishing for species like wrasse.

You can also experiment with using drilled leads to add more weight, rather like rigging Texas style.

There are three different colours available.



The attention to detail in the moulding is superb – here's the underside of one of the crabs.

Side Rigging

This presentation works a treat on a slow drift. You can see from the photograph that I have removed a couple of the crab's back legs, where the head of the jighead is situated. You don't have to do this, but I've found that it gives a neater presentation.

Rigging the crab like this makes

it appear more natural when being moved along, and with the tiniest flick of the rod tip you can impart a fantastic action to the crab which makes it look quite lifelike – after all, crab do move sideways!

INFO

For more details on these and other baits in the Marukyu range, visit:
<http://www.marukyu.com/eng/marukyu>

Front Rigging



Side Rigging



ADVICEcentre

Q & A

Welcome to our tackle and fishing advice centre. If you've got a question relating to anything fishy or you're having trouble with your tackle, let one of our experts come to your rescue.

Q: Dear Dave,

I'm looking at buying a new fixed spool reel for a fishing holiday over in Florida, but there are loads to choose from and I only have a budget of around £150. Is there anything out there that can handle the rigors of big game fishing in this price bracket, or should I focus on a multiplier reel instead?

Mike Ellie, via e-mail

A: Hello Mike,

I've been using a couple of the Fox Sportfishing Diablo reels for a lot of my UK and international fishing during the past couple of years, and I really can't fault them. I've caught a number of tarpon to well over 150lb and blue sharks to 140lb on them.

Engineered around the Fox RTS gear train, the six plus one high quality bearings guarantee a smooth transition of power between angler and fish. You really get a sense of just how smooth the drag is when it's under extreme load and a 150lb tarpon decides that it doesn't like the look of the boat! As with all of their saltwater range of reels, Fox has incorporated their own unique drag system (CDT). This features a large diameter high modulus carbon washer and their specially formulated lubricant to ensure an ultra strong drag and a very smooth transition.

Considering the Diablo is a budget range of reels their features belie the price tag. For instance a massive line roller guarantees good line management together with a sturdy bail arm, which will stand up to all the abuse this style of reel takes on. Add a large cranking handle and an infinite one-way system and you are certainly getting value for money. All of these features help you to cope admirably with braided mainlines.

There are currently three models in the range. The Diablo 350S has a gear ratio of 4.9 to 1 with a maximum drag setting of 20lb and weighs only 13.2oz.

The Diablo 550S has a retrieve ratio of 4.6 to 1 and weighs 19.2oz and has a maximum drag setting of 25lb.

The Diablo 750S, the largest in the series, and the one that's perfectly matched to the Tarpon Trek Spin rod, has a gear ratio of 4.7 to 1, weighs 30oz and has a maximum drag setting of 30lb.

As well as being a very robust design the guys at Fox have also thought about aftersales maintenance. The side plate is easily and quickly removed for a once-a-year clean down and lubricate.

A rather unique feature found on all of these reels is the Replaceable Slider System (RSS), this patented



The FOX Sportfishing Diablo 550S is the perfect all-rounder.

feature means the low friction sacrificial sliders can be replaced as soon and as often as you want.

What's more, they're really competitively priced too, ranging

from £100 for the smaller 350S to £120 for the 750S.

For more details on this kit and the complete range, visit: www.foxsportfishing.com



DAVE BARHAM

BFM's boat fishing technique specialist

Age
41

Years Fishing
35

Favorite Species
Bass, bream, tope and GTs.



DES WESTMORE

BFM's tackle specialist

Age
46

Years Fishing
34

Favourite species
Black bream and any flatfish.

Q: Hi Des,

I have just purchased a bright orange Abu 6500 on Ebay. It is marked as an 'Australian Pro Limited Edition'. Have I bagged myself a collectable bargain?

Vijay Raibole, via Facebook

A: Hi Vijay,

I would love to say "Yes" to this question as I own two of these reels myself; a 5600C and a 6500C. They were purchased in Australia more for souvenir value than anything else. I'd always hoped that perhaps I was the only person in the UK who owned one, but now I know there is at least one more. Sadly the answer to your question is that they aren't

particularly valuable to Abu collectors.

True collectable Abus are generally the ones dating from when Abu was a

family-owned firm, and they get less and less valuable as Abu became more and more a corporate brand to be bought and sold. There are a number of new limited edition reels but all are made in quite high production numbers so it is

unlikely they will become collectable.

That said we may both be lucky if tastes change over the years. They are still very good reels so as long as you didn't pay a ridiculous amount, you may one day recoup your investment.



Limited edition Australian Pro Abu reels.

Q: Hello Des,

As a project I have decided to build myself a boat rod, or, if I can't find a suitable blank, I will customise a production rod. Any thoughts before I start out?

Dan Meddock, via e-mail

A: Hi Dan,

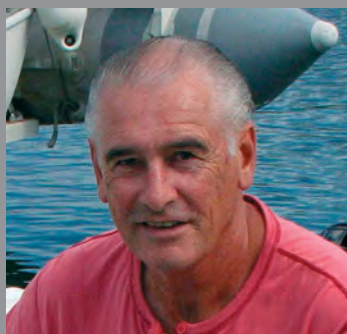
Two things spring to mind. Unless the rod is a very light class, I would avoid one-legged rings be they round or oval. While they preserve the action of the blank they are very prone to damage and simply cannot tolerate the rough treatment that a two-leg ring can.

There are a number of patterns out there so do some web research before you buy. My second thought is pay particular attention to where you place the reel seat. Again, if it is a light rod consider a movable seat. If it is heavy, don't be afraid to experiment with a low-down position. I prefer this and many other anglers do as well.

Don't be fooled into thinking it has anything to do with physique. Take a look at this picture of Vernon Everitt. He has cut-off the butt of his rod to make a very short handle and he is definitely no five and a half foot wimp.



Vernon Everitt with his customised rod.



JIM WHIPPY

BFM's match angling and general fishing specialist

Age
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Years Fishing
Over half a Century

Favourite Species
Bream and flatties.



If your question gets voted 'Question Of The Month' by our panel, you will win a fantastic prize from HART WORTH NEARLY £100!



BFM

BOAT FISHING MONTHLY

The UK's Only Dedicated Boat Fishing Magazine

BRANDED GEAR!

It's here – the new BFM clothing range has arrived. If you want to stay warm this winter, or simply look the business on the boat, check out what's available...

Serious Field Testing

After nearly six months of rigorous testing at sea, we're finally happy with the quality of our new kit. It's been subject to some serious abuse by BFM Ed Dave Barham, Ad Manager Darren Giles and Photographer Jim Midgley. They've worn it in torrential rain, they've left it on deck to be kicked about, and they've even washed the kit over 20 times just to see how well it fares. And the verdict? Well, it's all passed with flying colours.

Heavy Duty

The main aim for us when we decided to bring out a range of branded gear was quality. There's no point in producing something with your name on that just falls to bits after five minutes. With this in mind, we've gone for some top of the range clobber. Here's what we've got...



A. BFM Softshell Jacket

£44.99 + p&p

Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

These jackets are really smart, we wear ours out and about – not just when fishing. They're designed around the 'skipper's' jacket concept, so they're not too long in the body. They are waterproof to a point – we all wore the jacket in a Force 4 with torrential rain while fishing on deck all day, and they protected us. The outer shell also helps keep the wind at bay too. The full-length zip at the front is waterproof, and both sleeves have Velcro-adjustable cuffs.

These jackets have two outer pockets that have waterproof zips, plus another outer breast pocket – again with a waterproof zip. Inside the jacket there is a full-length zipped pocket that runs the length of the jacket, plus another that runs across the shoulders. There's also a mobile phone pocket with a Velcro fastening.

The BFM logo runs across the entire back panel, plus there is a smaller version on the left breast.

B. BFM T-Shirt

£14.99 + p&p

Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Again, these T-shirts are extremely high quality and hardwearing. They're made from 100 per cent cotton – so you're not going to get all sweaty while you're bringing that 15lb bass to the boat!

They feature the BFM logo across the entire back of the shirt, plus a smaller version on the right sleeve.

C. BFM Hoodie

£29.99 + p&p

Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

A lot of boat anglers (and skippers) like to wear hoodies. The main reason being that they keep you warm, and the hood keeps the wind off your neck and ears. These BFM hoodies are manufactured from a heavyweight fabric and are extremely warm. There is a large hand-warmer pocket that runs across the gut area, and the hood can be closed around your face with the aid of the heavy-duty drawstring, to really keep out that biting winter chill!

The BFM logo is splattered across the entire back, plus there's another smaller one on the left breast.

D. BFM Ski Hat

£8.99 + p&p

With winter fast approaching you're going to need a decent hat to keep your head warm. These BFM ski hats are made from ribbed acrylic and will stretch to fit even the largest of heads (like the guy in your club that holds the record for the biggest bass).

They feature the BFM logo embroidered on the front, with the BFM web address on the back.



HOW TO ORDER

call our HOTLINE now on: **01778 392028** or you can fill out the order form below and send a cheque to:
BFM, The Dragonfly, Herlington Centre, Orton Malborne, peterborough, PE2 5PN.

ORDER FORM

Name
Address
Postcode
Tel:
e-mail:

Please send me the following items. I enclose a cheque made out to 'Barham Media Ltd' for £.....

Jacket	£44.99 + (£4.99 p&p)	Size _____	Quantity _____
Hoodie	£29.99 + (£4.99 p&p)	Size _____	Quantity _____
T-Shirt	£14.99 + (£2.20 p&p)	Size _____	Quantity _____
Ski Hat	£8.99 + (£2.20 p&p)	Size _____	Quantity _____

Postage

If you want to order the full set, then postage and packing will only be £9.99. For the Hoodie, T-shirt and Ski Hat it will only be £6.99.

(Please allow up to 28-days for delivery. These garments are made to order, we don't hold stock.)

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- THE HIGHEST GRADE 100% FLUOROCARBON FROM ASSO
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- VERY STRONG FOR LOW DIAMETER, GREAT KNOT STRENGTH
- USED BY TOP BOAT ANGLERS AROUND THE WORLD

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- CO-POLYMER WITH A SPECIAL COATING
- 12X ABRASION RESISTANCE OF NORMAL LINES
- SUPER SUPPLE CASTS LIKE A DREAM
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LEVANT 700 SPORT FISHING

BFM Ed, Dave Barham reveals a fantastic new boat that is built and designed in Portugal, which is set to turn the UK boat market on its head!

I was recently invited over to Portugal by a Facebook friend, Mark Shreeve, to have a look at his new pride and joy – a custom-built 700 Sport Fishing from Levant. Little did I know what I was about to discover – quite possibly one of the best small fishing boats that I have ever been on!

My Garden Shed

It was a strange chat that Mark and I first had on Private Message. “Would you like to come over and see My Garden Shed?” is not the kind of question I get asked very often. In fact, it was the first and possibly last time that I have ever been asked that question!

After a little bit of banter, it transpired that ‘My Garden Shed’ is the name of Mark’s new boat, built and designed by a certain Francisco Alexandre - the main man at Levant Boats.

Of course, I couldn’t turn down such an opportunity, and Mark was insistent that I bring BFM photographer along, as well as some fishing gear, to make a very welcome four-day break out of it!

Also joining us on the trip was Jamie Day, another Facebook friend, who also knows a thing or two about boats – having owned many different hulls himself over the years, and even working from some of them commercially.

We’re Here!

When we arrived at Faro airport we were greeted by Mark’s wife, Stephanie, and Francisco’s partner in crime ‘Fonseca’. They had kindly arranged to pick us up and transport us to the one and only hotel in Villa Real de Santo Antonio, where Levant Boats is based.

That evening we all went out



The boat hardly moves in a tight turn – even at 40-knots!

for a fantastic meal in the local tapas bar ‘O Tapas’, where we were treated to all manner of dishes, including fresh spider crab and my newfound addiction, sardine pate! It was during this meal that I got talking to Francisco, who’s English is better than mine! And I was amazed at what I found out about him.

About Francisco

It turns out that Francisco is one of only three Naval Architects in the whole of Portugal. After serving his time designing and repairing various hulls such as fast patrol boats, he decided to start up his own business building pleasure craft. So, the 700 Sport Fishing, as with all of the Levant

The hull is extremely stable, and cuts through the water beautifully.



Twin 150 Yams – Mark's little babies!*There's plenty of clean deck space.**This hatch on deck can be used for dry stowage or as a livebait well – or both!*

boats, is designed from scratch – not re-shaped from moulds already in circulation. And, what's more, they're designed by a Naval Architect! You can't really have better credentials than that for a boat-building company.

Another thing worth mentioning at this point is that Mark's boat 'My Garden Shed' is currently the

39th 700 Sport Fishing boat that has been built – so Levant are by no means a 'new company' as far as having boats on the water is concerned. In fact, the first 700 was built back in 2003, and since then Francisco has made very few changes to the hull design.

I was blown away by the hospitality extended to us by Francisco, who is by all accounts a very modest and kind gentleman. He invited us to his house on the second and third nights of our stay, and fed us like kings! He's also a mad keen fisherman, and that passion shines through to his boat building.

Onto The 700

Right then, let's get down to the nitty gritty. The hull length of the

700 equates to just over 22ft, and with the engines slapped on the back it brings the overall length to just over 23ft. She has an 8ft beam, and draws just 1.5ft. That's akin to other boats like the Arvor 690 Pilothouse or Quicksilver 675 Pilothouse, both of which are nice boats, but cannot match the Levant for price or maximum horsepower ratings.

As soon as I stepped on deck of the 700 I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of freeboard. I'm 6ft 5in tall, and the gunnels come right up to my hip. I think in order to get this boat coded in the UK you need literally three or four inches of stainless railing!

The other thing that grabbed my attention was the sheer amount of deck space on a closed cuddy boat. There's nothing on deck to trip

you up or get in your way – it's all fishing space.

Most of the original Levant 700s have open cuddies, because that's what boat owners in Portugal prefer – and who can blame them with their scorching hot summers. However, Mark wanted a closed, lockable cuddy on his boat, so Francisco obliged and built him one! Now would also be a good time to mention that this boat is totally customisable – you want it, you got it!

Serious Power

It's not often that you see a 22ft boat with twin 150s on the back, in fact I think this was a first for me. Mark managed to acquire both the engines from an ex police RiB. Yamaha serviced the engines,

What a great name for a boat!*The cabin is spacious – even with all our clothing and camera gear 'abandoned' inside!*

She's very stable to fish from, even in a choppy sea.



and assured Mark that by running twin 150s, rather than a single larger engine, he would actually be getting better fuel economy – but that's not the reason why Mark decided to go for twin screws.

The real reason why the twin-engine option was chosen is a simple one – peace of mind and safety. Basically, if Mark's fishing well offshore and has trouble with one of the engines, he'll be able to get home quite happily on a single engine – which I think you'll all agree is a very sensible reason for Marks' choice of power.

Superb Handling

During our trip I had the opportunity to man the helm on more than one occasion, and I was also treated to the most impressive helmsman experience that I've ever had, when Francisco took control and brought us back in from a fishing trip at remarkable speed, during worsening sea conditions. I've never seen anybody work dual throttle controls like that before – we literally never dropped a wave, thanks to Francisco constantly upping and lowering the revs to keep us steady at 20-knots, for best part of half an hour!

I put 'My Garden Shed' through her paces, just like I would any other boat, and we had some pretty good conditions throughout the trip, including a good Force 5/6, plus flat calm.

The first thing I noticed while at the helm was the way the 700 crept up on the plane. She gets up quick, and once up, with a little bit of trim she settles nicely and you can really pile on the power. And that's when I discovered another

advantage of this unique hull – there's no slap, none at all, even in a short chop she just rides over it, or gently lowers you back onto the next wave without any sudden jolts. I've played with and fished on lots of small boats in the UK, and some of those have left me feeling like I'd just done a few rounds in the ring with Eubank after a day's fishing – not so with the 700, she's an absolute joy to ride and even more fun to helm.

It wasn't until Francisco took over on the way back in that I saw and felt exactly what this baby is capable of. I've already mentioned the throttle control while coming back in during some pretty nasty sea conditions, but once we hit the safety of the river, he really showed us what his boat can do.

As he pushed the throttles up to near max, the 700 responded instantly and skipped us along at an impressive 48.5 knots. It's even more impressive when I tell you that there were five of us on board (you could say six with the size of Jim and myself), plus she was fully loaded with fuel, a full freshwater tank and all of our fishing and camera gear!

As if the speed demonstration wasn't enough, Francisco then set about doing a few doughnuts and 180-degree turns – at speed. The boat just responded like a happy puppy, and there was no evidence of yawing as we hit the waves we'd been creating. Even in the tight turns at ridiculous speed, the boat remains stable, and she hardly leans at all – just a few degrees.

I have to admit that the Levant 700 is by far the most stable small fishing boat that I've ever had the pleasure of being on. We even tried heading out in a 2-metre choppy

Whoosh! 48.5 knots!



swell one day to try some offshore fishing. It was only Francisco who stopped us after 20 minutes to say that the weather would be better the following day, and that we may as well head back in for a few beers! It was only once we got back to the marina that I found out that the Portuguese rarely go out in such conditions – but for me it was just a typical 'bad' day in the UK, and the boat was handling it with ease – although we didn't get much above 12-knots.

I've only got space for so many words in the magazine, but we shot plenty of video about this boat during our trip, which shows a bit more detail of the layout and the build quality, plus some of the

many options that are available. You can also check out our YouTube channel to see Francisco throwing this boat around – you'll be as impressed as we all were!

Conclusion

I think by now you'll have the impression that I am mightily impressed with this boat, and you're right! I think that once a few of them creep their way into marinas in the UK we're going to see an explosion of demand and ownership.

For a little over £24,000, you're getting a whole lot of boat and outboard, with handling and sea-keeping qualities that I've yet to encounter on anything else I've fished on in the UK.

BOAT SPECIFICATIONS:

LENGTH OVERALL	7.12m
HULL LENGTH	6.76m
BEAM	2.53m
WEIGHT	1,500kg
DRAFT	0.44m
MAXIMUM POWER	300hp
FUEL TANK CAPACITY	140/280lt
CE CATEGORY	C3
MAXIMUM CAPACITY	8 persons

PRICES

700 Sport/ Selva Killer Whale 150hp	£24,521 €34,330
700 Sport/ 2x Selva Killer Whale 150hp XSRs	£36,806 €51,529
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BOAT FISHING WITH BARHAM DVDS

We're pleased to announce the long-awaited release of the popular fishing series 'Boat Fishing With Barham', available on two DVDs. With three full-length episodes on each disk, they'll make an ideal present!

About The Series

The idea behind the popular 'Boat Fishing With Barham' series is to portray UK boat fishing exactly as it is – warts and all! Join presenter, Dave Barham, on some of the UK's top charter boats as he and his friends go in search of the ultimate prizes in sea fishing.

During these programs you'll discover essential tips and tricks from some of the UK's best boat anglers and skippers. You'll also gain an insight into just what it's like to get afloat for a day with a group of likeminded anglers.

We had some great laughs filming this first series, and we've already started on series two!

DVD 1 – Bass, Black Bream and Smoothhounds

On this DVD the Boat Fishing Monthly crew head to Hayling Island in search of bass on livebaits – perhaps one of the most exciting forms of sea fishing there is. Using light tackle, Dave and his friends catch bass after bass around the famous 'Overfalls'.

If you're into light tackle sport, then don't miss the 'Black Bream' episode where south coast charter skipper, Rob Thompson, reveals a

'secret' method for bagging up on these spirited fighters – trout pellets! Yes, a bait dropper loaded with trout pellets really brings these bream on the feed – and the proof is in the catching...

The final episode on this disk is all about gearing up for light tackle smoothhound sport. The BFM crew head to Holyhead, the Mecca for big hounds, in search of record busting spinning rod action.

Charter skipper legend, Gethyn Owen, reveals all his secrets that have helped him and his crews put dozens of 20lb+ hounds on the deck of his boat over the years, including the Welsh record fish.

With all the tips, tricks and laughs thrown in, this series will make you want to get out there fishing and will definitely help you put more fish in the boat.

DVD2 – Cod, Conger Eels and Thornback Rays

During this magic session, Dave and his friends boat cod to over 20lb during a rather hectic few hours fishing off the famous Needles. There are a few local experts on hand to provide insider knowledge as far as the best baits and rigs are concerned, and clearly, their advice pays off!

We then head off to Weymouth, one of the most picturesque ports in the UK. Again, Dave is in good hands, with charter skipper legend Chris Caines revealing exactly how he puts his customers over the best wrecks in the Channel. We cover everything from rigs, tackle and baiting up in this episode, and with conger eels to 70lb, plus some monster bream, turbot, ling and tope to add to the tally, this truly is a red-letter day afloat.

The last show on this DVD takes us to Liverpool and the River Mersey, where Dave joins father and son skippers, Tony and Simon Parry, for an action-packed day uptiding for cod and thornback rays. If you ever wanted to know how to prepare a 'lugworm sausage' then this show is a must see! With all the tips, tricks and laughs thrown in, this series will make you want to get out there fishing and will definitely help you put more fish in the boat.

How To Order

They cost £9.99 each or you can buy the set for just £16.99, plus postage.

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AT the helm

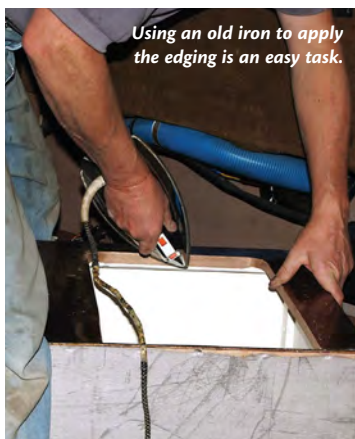
Q & A

Welcome to our boating question forum. If you have a query about anchoring, or you'd like some advice on what engine to choose, let our panel of experts help you out.

Q: Dear Peter,

As I'm coming to the end of a major refit I've been thinking about using real wood iron-on edging to finish the inside of the locker door openings but I'm wondering if it will stand up to the damp environment. Have you ever used this and is it any good?

John Tindall. Appledore, Via e-mail.



A: Hi John,

I've used this to great success over the years and it stands up to the damp conditions extremely well. Just make sure the edges are well protected with varnish, as this will prevent damp creeping in. Other than that it is easy to use and gives a proper professional finish to the job.

Q: Hi Peter,

This may sound like a stupid question, but can you recommend a good wood glue for interior use in the boat's wheelhouse. There is such a bewildering choice now varying hugely in price that I can't decide what to use. Do you have any particular preference?

Alan Smith. Liverpool. Via e-mail.



A: Hi Alan,

I quite agree that there are many different types and make of glue available and I must admit that I haven't tried most of them! I started using 'Cascamite' at school, and despite all the advances in

chemical technology I still use it as I find it works well on all the types of timber that I use, including teak. I did once try Aerolite, which is a similar glue, except that it requires a weak acid solution to be applied to one face of the joint before closing. This seemed an unnecessary complication so I went back to Cascamite and have stayed with it ever since. Others may have different opinions but I'm happy to 'stick with' what I know.

Q: Dear Peter,

I'm just about to re-paint my boat and was wondering what the best technique is for getting a straight waterline level. My friend did his himself last year, and it looked a bit wobbly to me. Is it an easy job, or would I be better off paying someone to do it for me?

Ian Millstone, via e-mail

A: Hello Ian,

Getting a level waterline mark shouldn't be too hard a job. Starting at one end of the stern (either side) stick the masking tape where you want your line to begin. Now unroll a length of tape about a metre long, keeping it taut. With the tape stretched out, look back along its length while laying it flat against the hull. Don't press the tape down too firmly, you may need to peel it back for small adjustments.

Use your position at the end of the tape to ensure the curve is fair.

Unroll more tape and continue. Once you're happy with the whole line, press the tape firmly against the hull.

A good tip is to use a few smaller pieces of tape to run the line around the bow.

If your previous waterline isn't visible, there are a few methods to find the new line, but all require the boat to be laid up level to start with. The traditional way is to use poles with string tied at the correct height. Keep the line taut and 'roll' it around the hull, marking its position every few inches, then join the dots with one edge of the masking tape. A more modern way is to use a laser level on a tripod, positioned amidships and rotated so you can mark where the laser shines on the hull.



PETER CAPLEN

Years Boating
45

First Boat
Plywood kayak built in woodwork class at school.

Favourite Boat
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Maintenance Man

CHAIN COUNTER INSTALLATION

Last month Peter Caplen explained the installation of a Lewmar V700 vertical windlass and briefly looked at the in-built chain counter sensor and wiring it to a Lewmar Rode Counter gauge. This month we are looking at fitting a chain sensor into a horizontal windlass not normally equipped to work with the Rode Counter.

The windlass being used here is a Lewmar Pro-Series 1000 for no other reason than it is what we have in stock for installing on another boat, which was bought second-hand off Ebay as 'spares or repair' and we were able to repair it.

Theoretically these Rode Counters can be fitted to any make and type of windlass, but each installation will vary depending on the style of windlass, so unless you have a Lewmar Pro-Series you may have to work-out a different method of installation to that shown here, although much of what we have done should be the same or similar

for most other windlass types.

The first step is to decide the position of the sensor, bearing in mind that it needs to be protected from physical damage and must also be close enough to the gypsy to sense the magnet passing close to its face. This means that a suitable position must be chosen for mounting the magnet within the gypsy itself.

On this windlass there didn't appear to be any suitable external mounting position for the sensor, so we decided to have a look inside and see if there were any suitable locations within.



STEP 1

The Pro-Series windlass having been repaired and in perfect working order, but lacking a Rode Counter.



STEP 2

The Rode Counter set including gauge, sensor, sensor holders and two magnets of different sizes. This is the earlier kit as the later model gauge has a different face and there are several different types of sensor. There is also a smaller magnet available. However, installation, wiring and set-up are all exactly the same as on this earlier model.

Dismantling The Pro-Series



STEP 3

The dismantling process is begun with removal of the clutch nut, which can be unscrewed by hand once it has been slacked with a standard 1/2-inch drive ratchet inserted into one of the squares.



STEP 4

This is followed by the chain stripper which needs an Allen key for removal.



STEP 5

The clutch insert can then be pulled off the drive shaft.



STEP 6

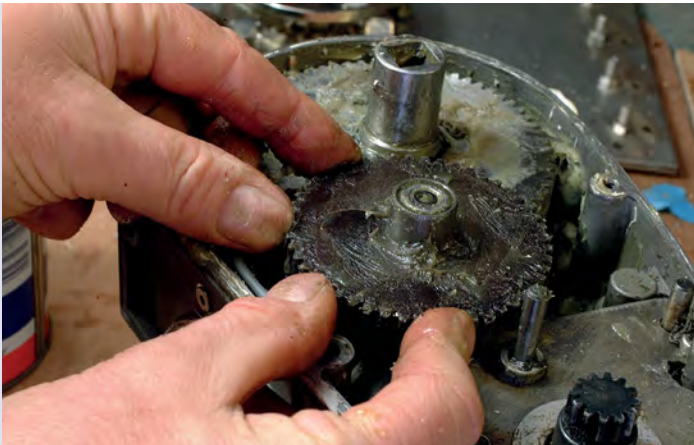
There are two drive pins that locate between the insert and drive shaft and these can now be removed. By lifting the spring loaded chain control arm the gypsy can be slid off the shaft



STEP 7

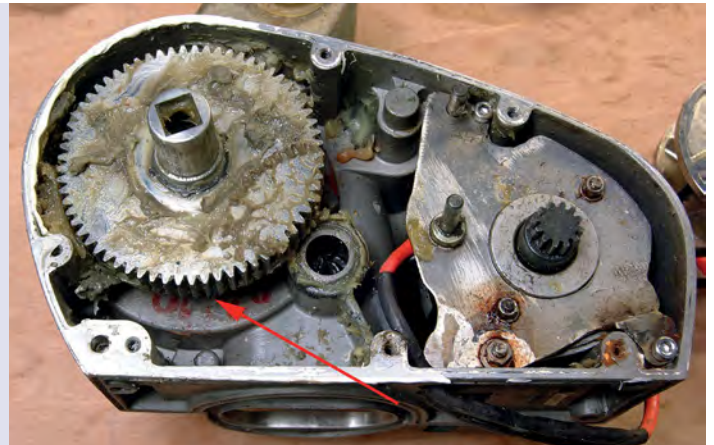
The windlass is turned over and the six cover screws are removed prior to lifting off the side cover.

Planning The Sensor Position



STEP 8

The various drive gears can be lifted out to make room for examining the interior to find the best mounting position for the sensor.



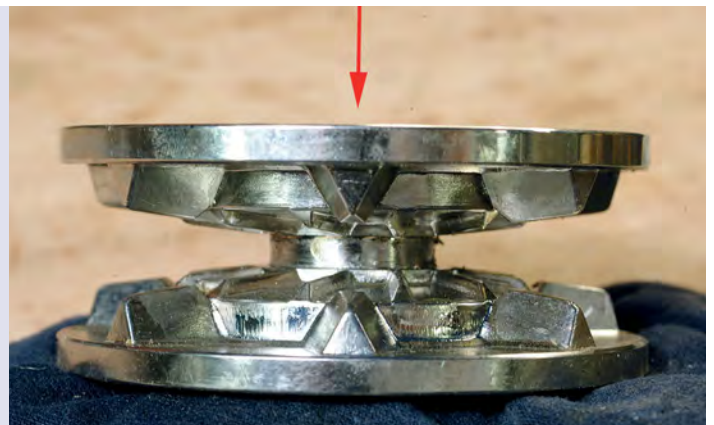
STEP 9

The best position we could find was at the bottom of the area where the gypsy runs. This meant that the sensor would have to be mounted at an angle to clear the large drive gear.



STEP 10

A check of the outside confirmed that there were no other problems with this position other than the mounting angle.



STEP 11

Next we had to ensure there was sufficient thickness on the gypsy to accommodate the magnet. It was found that the only practical place was behind one of the chain 'teeth'.

Note: Before going any further we checked that the sensor would work properly at an angle to the magnet. This was simply done by temporarily connecting to the sensor and gauge to a battery and holding the sensor at an angle while passing it over the magnet. The gauge registered properly each time the sensor was passed over the magnet indicating that the angle was not a problem.

Fitting The Magnet In The Gypsy



STEP 12

The position of the hole for the magnet was carefully marked onto the side of the gypsy opposite the chosen chain 'tooth'.



STEP 13

The mark was then centre-punched to give an accurate start to the drilling.



STEP 14

The hole was then drilled beginning with a small pilot bit, and then finishing with an 8mm bit that corresponds with the size of magnet to be used.



STEP 15

Extreme care was used to ensure that the drill did not pass right through the side, but only went far enough in to accommodate the magnet with an additional 1mm for sealing with epoxy.



STEP 16

The magnet was placed into the hole to check the fit and depth of hole.



STEP 17

Once in place it could be seen that there was about 1mm clearance above the magnet to allow room for the epoxy seal.



STEP 18

The hole was cleaned with methylated spirit and paper towel prior to sealing the magnet in with epoxy.



STEP 19

We use Araldite® as the epoxy adhesive of choice as it is very easy to mix minute amounts accurately, by simply squeezing out equal amounts and stirring until mixed.



STEP 20

The hole was partially filled with Araldite prior to inserting the magnet.



STEP 21

The magnet was then placed into the Araldite and pushed down gently so that the adhesive squeezed up around it. This ensured the hole was completely filled, with no empty voids remaining to weaken the chain 'tooth'.



STEP 22

A final drop was placed on top of the hole and the residue cleaned off (after this picture was taken!)

Installing The Sensor



STEP 23

With the magnet installed in the gypsy the next step was to install the sensor so that the magnet passed over its face on every revolution. This entailed accurately measuring from the centre of the gypsy to the centre of the magnet, and then transferring the measurement to the body of the windlass.



STEP 24

The mark was centre-punched in the usual manner to ensure the drill bit started in the correct position, especially as the hole was going to have to be drilled at an angle.

Note: Due to the awkward angle it was not possible to use the bench drill so we had to resort to using a battery drill.



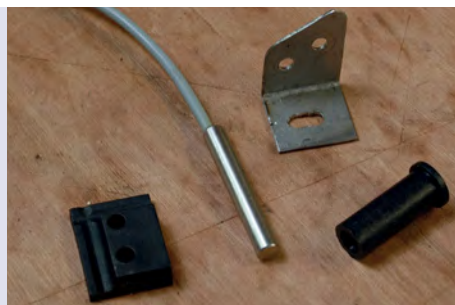
STEP 25

We began with a small pilot bit drilled a short way in perpendicular to the surface, and then angled once there was an indentation to prevent it slipping sideways. This was followed by a 6mm drill bit corresponding to the diameter of the sensor.



STEP 26

The sensor was offered to ensure it didn't foul the gears inside and that it wouldn't protrude too far.



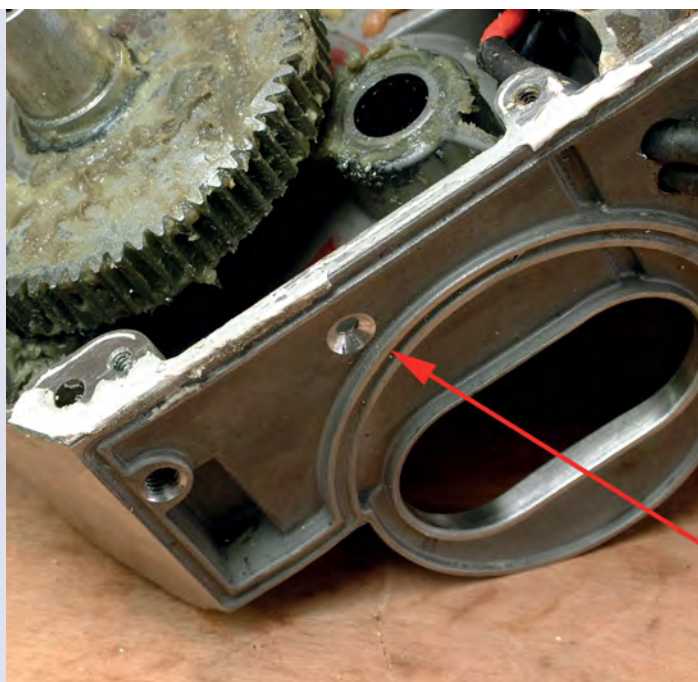
STEP 27

To mount the sensor we made up a simple 1mm thick stainless steel bracket formed on the vice, and drilled to accept the black mounting clamp supplied with the kit. The tubular sensor holder (on the right) could not be used.



STEP 28

Looking like a small cannon the sensor can be adjusted to allow it to be accurately positioned in the hole in the windlass body.



STEP 29

A countersunk hole was drilled in the base of the windlass body for mounting the sensor holder.



STEP 30

The inside of the hole for the sensor-face was cleaned with meths and paper towel ready for installation of the sensor.



STEP 31

The sensor on its mount was then bolted into place.



STEP 32

The face of the sensor was again checked to ensure it didn't protrude too far.



STEP 33

Final adjustments were made to the sensor on its mount and the bolts all tightened.



STEP 34

Araldite was again used to seal the sensor into the body.



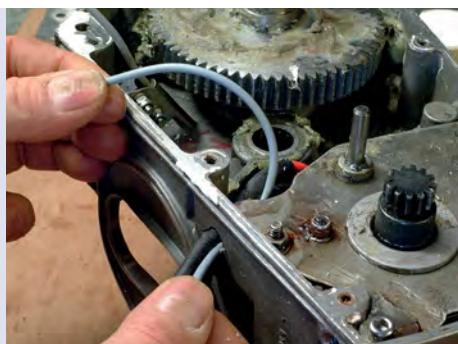
STEP 35

Once the first application had partially cured a second drop was placed on top to form an overlapping seal.



STEP 36

When the outside Araldite had cured a further application was placed inside around the sensor.



STEP 37

The sensor cable was run out of the bottom of the windlass body through the same aperture as the motor cables.



STEP 38

The gears were greased and reassembled.



STEP 39

Before closing up the case, a dollop of polyurethane sealant was placed onto the sensor cable to stick it to the windlass base and prevent any possibility of it moving and getting snagged in the gears.



STEP 40

A bead of sealant was gunned around the edge of the case as there is no gasket for this joint.



STEP 41

The side cover is placed over the main shaft and located onto the two alignment pegs and pressed down onto the casing.



STEP 42

Thread lock is applied to the threads of the Allan head machine screws, which are then inserted into their places in the casing.



STEP 43

They are then tightened a little at a time until all are tight and sealant has squeezed out all round the joint.

Note: The gypsy, stripper, clutch insert and nut are reassembled in the reverse order to their removal.



STEP 44

The reassembled windlass looking no different apart from the additional sensor wire.

Chain Counter Wiring

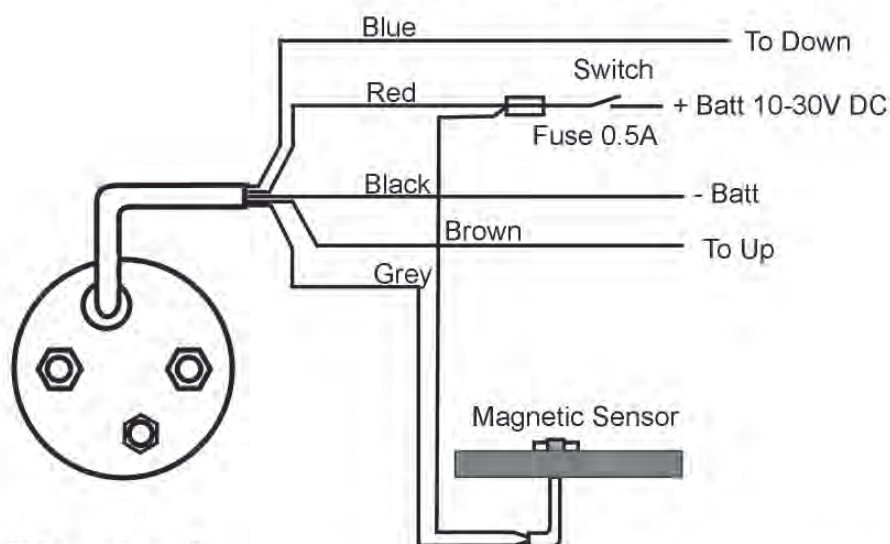


Diagram 1.

DIAGRAM 1

The simple wiring diagram showing the connections for the sensor and gauge.

DIAGRAM 2

The simple method of checking the amount of chain being veered or hauled in one revolution of the gypsy.

Note: When a standard size Lewmar gypsy is being used the default setting of 33cm of chain per revolution should be correct. For other makes it may be necessary to recalibrate the chain counter. Having measured the amount of chain being deployed with each revolution, press 'Cal' for three seconds and C33 will be displayed (this being the default setting). Press 'Cal' to increase the setting number and 'Res' to decrease the number. Once the correct figure is set, wait for five seconds until the memory has stored the new setting and that's it!

Chainwheel Mark

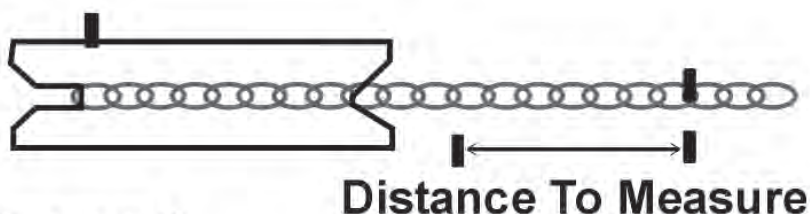
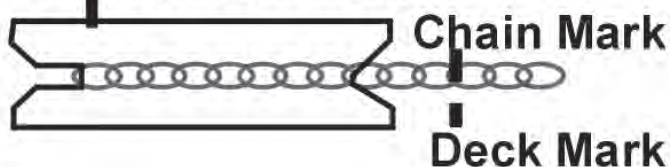


Diagram 2.

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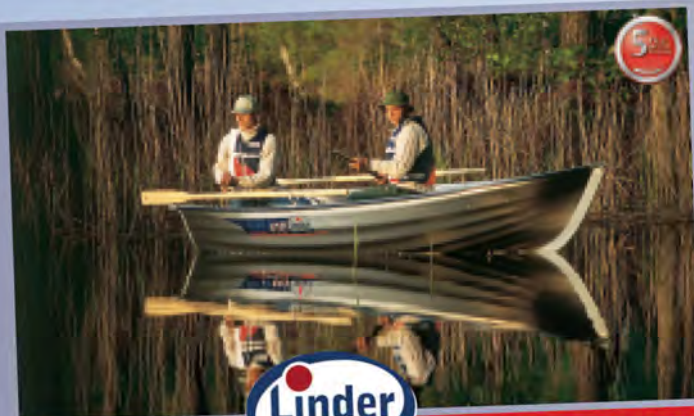
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